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from the New England Center for Civic Life



Creating Solutions Together

An Issue Framing Workshop: February 24-25

Presented by the New England Center for Civic Life with Vermont Campus Compact

This **hands-on workshop** will teach you how to develop the framework used for deliberation in deliberative dialogue forums. Issue framing is a collaborative process that assists communities to define a common problem and to develop a set of approaches for addressing it. Each approach represents the beliefs, life experiences, and priorities of different groups.

In step-by-step sessions, participants will develop an **issue map**. This is a brief summary of the problem and an outline of various approaches for addressing it.

Workshop leaders will also explain how to turn the issue map into a full-length **discussion guide** with an introduction that provides a comprehensive introduction and essays that present in-depth analysis of each approach.

Issue framing can be integrated into courses to assist students develop a more comprehensive understanding of the subject at hand, particularly its connection with social and ethical issues beyond the classroom.

Student leaders can use issue maps to engage community members in action-producing dialogues about campus issues



Deliberative Dialogue

Deliberative Dialogue

Deliberative forums are typically two hours long, facilitated by a moderator, have ground rules, and use an issue map or discussion guide. Deliberation encourages participants to speak not only as individuals or groups with competing interests, but as members of a community with shared goals and concerns. Through its emphasis on making ethical choices about public policy, people are encouraged to take about issues not only in terms expert analysis, but also from the perspective of their values, priorities, and personal experiences. Participants are asked to listen carefully to each other, examine assumptions, and weigh the advantages and drawbacks of various courses of action.

The Northern New England Diversity & Community Project

The Northern New England Diversity & Community Project adapts the program developed at Franklin Pierce for use at other educational institutions. The Project provides opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to learn the theory and practice of deliberative dialogue. We also assist project associates to integrate these practices into curricular and extra curricular activities at their institutions. A collaboration between the New England Center for Civic Life and Vermont Campus Compact, it has substantial support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Integrating deliberative democratic practices into the curriculum can enhance the development of critical thinking, communicating across differences, and developing the commitment needed to become engaged community members.

The New England Center for Civic Life

Founded in 1998 on the premise that an engaged deliberative public is vital to healthy communities, the Center seeks to foster and teach the theory and practices of deliberative democracy within the context of an academic community dedicated to excellence in undergraduate liberal education. Our programs and services encourage, support, and prepare community members and student to be active co-creators of the public world through engaged and collaborative civic participation

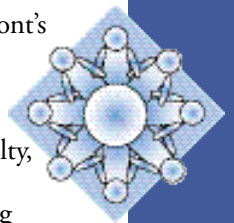
Vermont Campus Compact

Vermont Campus Compact is a consortium of Vermont's higher education presidents and their institutions committed to creating a flourishing democracy. VCC works to create strong networks among the state's colleges and universities so that individual faculty, administrations, staff, and students

can exchange ideas and resources regarding community based teaching, research, and learning student leadership and volunteer programs, and other forms of campus civic engagement.

Nations Issues Forums

The Center is a member of National Issues Forums, a nonpartisan, nationwide network chartered in 1982. Members include an array of civic, educational and professional groups, organizations, and institutions that support public deliberations in communities across the country.



Agenda

Friday, February 24

8:00 – 8:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45

Session 1: Introduction and Overview

9:45 – 10:00 **Break**

10:00 – 12:00

Session 2: The Structure of a Deliberative Forum

In this session we will look at an already framed issue – “Making Ends Meet: Is There a Way to Help Working Americans?” – in order to understand the components of a well-framed issue suitable for deliberation. We will talk about the nature of “choice work,” the characteristics of a issue suitable for deliberation, and the process of creating and testing a deliberative framework.

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 3:00

Session 3: Identifying Concerns

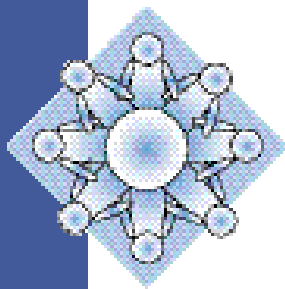
With this session we begin the process of actually framing the issue we will address during this workshop, the impact that social and economic class difference on campus life. Specifically, we will begin to identify the concerns that a framework addressing this question would have to address.

3:00 – 3:15 **Break**

3:15 – 5:15

Session 4: Grouping Concerns and Perspectives

We continue to frame the issue by noticing that many of the identified concerns share something in common with each other. We will group like concerns and ask ourselves what is the underlying value that this group of concerns shares.



Saturday, February 25

8:00 – 8:30 **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 – 10:00

Session 5: Naming the Issue

Now that we have some identified groupings of concerns that each represents a group of value orientations, we will actually “name” the issue that has been so general up to now. That is, we will ask ourselves: “What problem is each of these groupings trying to solve?” Once we have done this we will have “named” the issue we are framing.

10:00 – 10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 11:30

Session 6: Recognizing Tensions

Now that we have a named issue and some general groupings of concerns – which become different approaches to the named issue – we now start to recognize and identify the tensions between the approaches. At this point we “fine tune” the approaches so that each approach represents something valuable and pulls against the values of the other approaches.

11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**

12:30 – 2:15

Session 7: Developing the Approaches

Participants will break into 3 or 4 teams (depending on how many choices we have) and begin to develop the benefits and drawbacks as well as likely actions and tradeoffs for each approach.

2:30 – 3:30

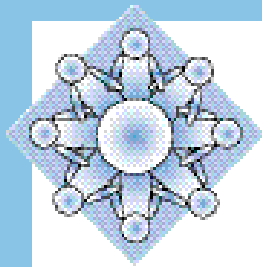
Session 8: Reporting on the Approaches

Each group will report back on the benefits and drawbacks they have identified for their approach, as well as likely actions their approach would advocate, and the tradeoffs implied by implementing these actions.

3:30 – 4:30

Session 9: Testing the Framework

In this final session, participants will work to see how well the approach captures a specific value position with regards to the named issue. The framework will also be tested against the characteristics of frameable issues outlined in Session Two. Finally, we will discuss how the work continues after the preliminary framing session.



Registration

Issue Framing Workshop

February 24-25, 2006

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Enclosed please find a check or PO in the amount of \$_____

\$250/person

VCC/NHCC Member Discount: \$115

NNE Diversity & Community Project Participants: \$115

FPC Faculty/Staff/Student: Costs covered by the New England Center for Civic Life

Includes training and materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks

- Please complete and return this form along with your workshop fee by February 20.

- Make all checks payable to New England Center for Civic Life.

- Please send your registration form and fee to:

New England Center for Civic Life
Franklin Pierce
007 Edgewood Hall
20 College Road
Rindge, NH 03461

- Participants are responsible for securing their own overnight accommodations.

- If you require special services due to a disability or have special dietary needs, please call ahead to let us know

The Essentials

WHEN?

Friday & Saturday,

February 24-25

8:30am -4:30 pm

WHERE?

Franklin Pierce College

Cheshire Hall Conference Room

20 College Road

Rindge, NH 03461

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Administrators, Faculty,

Students. Community Leaders

FEES

\$145/person

FPC Faculty/Staff/Student: None

VCC & NHCC Member: \$115

Includes training and materials,
continental breakfast and lunch.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Benjamin Prescott Inn

Jaffrey

(603) 532-6637

The Currier's House

Jaffrey Center

(603) 532 7670

Fitzwilliam Inn

Fitzwilliam

603) 585-9000

Jack Daniels Motor Inn

Peterborough

(603) 924-7548

Woodbound Inn

Rindge

(603) 532-8341

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Vermont Campus Compact

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A National Issues Forums Workshop

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