

Common Ground: A History and Our Generation

By NICOLE MARTINO

Every generation watches the world change for better or worse. Whether one spends their minutes thinking about war and depression, or violence and technology, these are just a few of the elements that can affect the minds and development of any cohort. Studies show that America's collegiate young adults are growing up in one of the most diverse societies that the country has ever known, and hence have had to deal with some issues that were not of the same kind of prominence generations ago. Successful development requires dealing with these issues gracefully and tactfully and that is one of the reasons for the development of the Common Ground dialogue program.

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Keep Watching For New Dialogue Topics

By NICOLE MARTINO

Attention all PDLs. The next time you and your friends get in a serious discussion, take note! When you are watching and readings the news, (like good CIVICUS alums) keep watch for new potential group topics. It could be anything from restrictions on news or entertainment to university policy pertaining to a certain identity group.



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Common Ground Explores New Topic

By IAN BRECHER

This year we introduced a brand new dialogue topic to the four-session Common Ground group. The topic is whether comedians should observe limits in their acts, regarding controversial topics surrounding identity. The topic, initially an idea of PDL newcomer Jake Frelick, was well received by all the PDLs in training, and attracted overwhelming attention from Common Ground participants in the RA class. "It's a unique topic," said Eric Mayer, a sophomore PDL.

"It is very different from the rest of the dialogue topics. Although it does not have the same legal implications as some of the other topics, it still retains a sense of seriousness." During the training simulations for this

topic, the group found itself reciting several controversial acts, in hopes to spark some dialogue. "It's really fun to talk about comedy," said Mayer. "But just when you think your having too much fun, someone calls an 'ouch,' and it's back to reality. There is truly sensitivity about this topic that needs to be explored."



What A Difference A Day Makes: 1 Session Dialogues

By RYAN S. MCINERNEY

The Virginia Tech tragedy was a horrific act that has affected our entire country. Students, especially those in college, arguably are the ones who have been felt the most impact. In the wake of such events, the importance of students coming together and talking about their feelings is immense. Personally, I had the unique opportunity to facilitate two different one-session dialogues on this topic. What surprised me the most, is how vastly different the contents of the two sessions were.

During my one-session dialogue in Easton, the students expressed fear. That may have been due to the proximity of the dialogue, because it occurred merely 6 days after the tragedy. The students wanted to talk about the impact of the events on other students. They expressed how some kids may have been afraid to go to class and if there were to be a fire alarm set-off, there would be panic. Because of this fear, the issue of safety was a definite commonality of what the students discussed. Gun-safety was a topic briefly discussed. However, it was safety on our campus that was discussed the most. They pondered how university officials should better prepare the campus for such an attack. The idea of how administrators should deal with a "problem child" also arose. This left the students wondering if the shooter had been removed from the school because of past threats could the tragedy be avoided?

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