

Agree to Disagree

Communication Skills, Module 3



AGENDA



1. Brainstorm: What does the phrase “Agree to Disagree” mean to you?



2. Working with a partner, have a discussion about a chosen topic and summarize the results of the conversation.



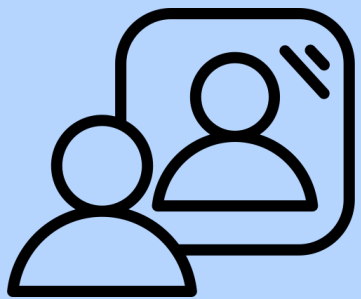
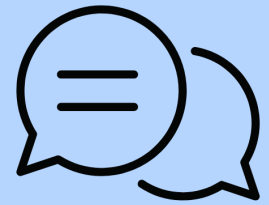
3. Reflect: How did the conversation go? How did you feel about sharing your thoughts?



BRAINSTORM



What do you think the phrase means “Agree to Disagree”? In what types of situations or conversations have you heard the phrase?

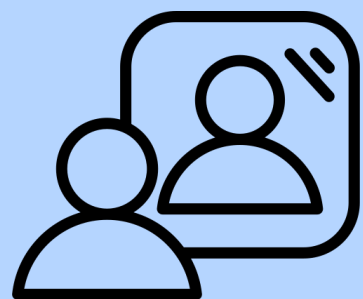
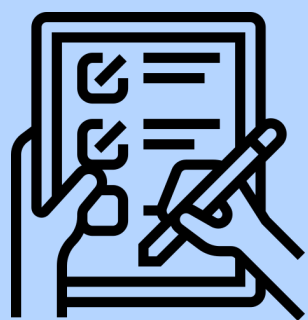


DISCUSS



The phrase, “agree to disagree” often seems to be said when a discussion that you might be having with someone seems to be going badly. You can’t seem to change the other person’s mind, and you decide to drop the subject. Saying “Well, I guess we’ll have to agree to disagree.” seems to bring the conversation to a conclusion. And then, you just have to accept that each person has their own way of thinking about the subject and that there is no middle ground for agreement.





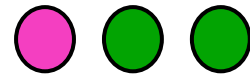
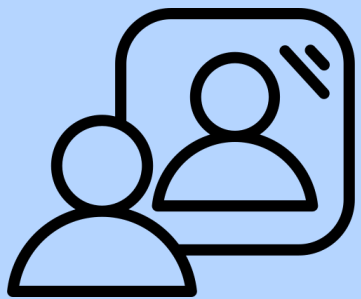
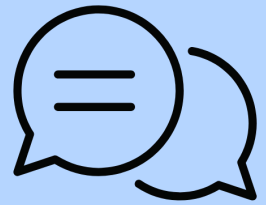
DIVE IN



Disagreement is Healthy.

In order for our ideas to be well thought out, we need to be challenged. A disagreement is an opportunity to sharpen our position and improve our conversation skills.





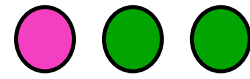
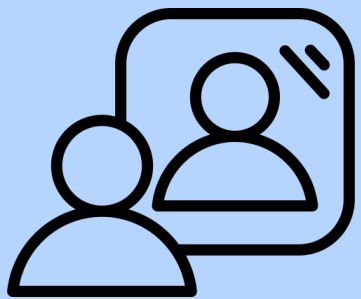
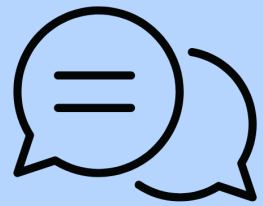
DIVE IN



Set Aside Your Need to Win

When we set aside our need to win the argument, we open up the possibility of learning something new. If we know that our position will be respected, we may feel less defensive and more open to new ideas.





DIVE IN

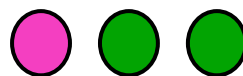
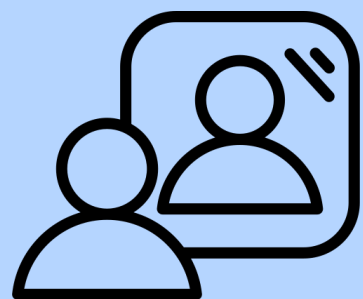
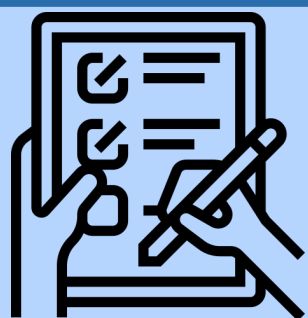


Seek to Understand

When entering into conversations for the sake of understanding rather than changing minds, the relationship between you and the other person can be strengthened.

Statements like, “You make a good point...”
“I agree with you that...”, “That’s something I think we both can agree upon.” can show respect and collaboration.





ACTIVITY



Working with a partner and using the Conversation Connectors, have a discussion about a chosen topic summarize the results of the conversation.

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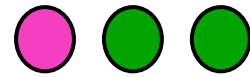
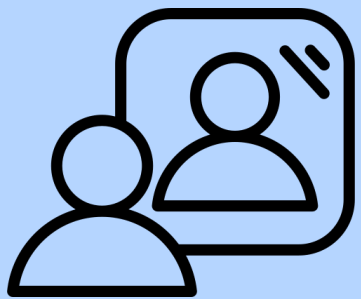
Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Agree to Disagree

When I agree and want to explain why... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I agree with your answer, because...• I think our answer is right, because...• I got the same answer as you, because...• I agree with you because...• I agree with... and I'd like to add...	When I agree and want to add on... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That's a good point and I'd like to add...• I think you're right, and I also think...• That's a great idea, and don't you think...• I agree with... when he/she said... and I also want to add...
When I disagree and want to explain why... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I respectfully disagree with... and I think...• I disagree with your idea of... and I think...• I disagree with your reasoning and I think...• I know where you're coming from and I have a different idea/opinion...	When I want to understand more... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What made you think that?• How did you get that answer?• Why is it important?• What's your evidence?
When I want more clarification... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you mean by...?• Can you repeat that please?• How do you know?• So you're saying...?	

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REFLECT



How did the conversation go? How did you feel about sharing your thoughts? Did you think that your partner made some reasonable points? Did it make you want to consider your partner's side more that you might have if you were trying to "win" the argument? How might this perspective change how you think about conversations where there are different perspectives? How might you benefit from this perspective?





Extend & Enrich

Extend and Enrich: One way to confirm that you do understand the other person's perspective is to try to change sides in the argument and try to articulate the other perspective. Have students switch sides and then continue on the discussion. How did it feel? Were they able to argue the other side effectively? To do this extension activity effectively, students will have to listen carefully to their partner and ask clarifying questions to really be able to argue the other side well.



Home Connection



Home Connection

Agree to Disagree

Dear _____,

Today in class, we learned that to “**agree to disagree**” doesn't have to be the only solution when two people don't agree on a topic. We learned that:

- 1. Disagreement is healthy. In order for our ideas to be well thought out, we need to be challenged. A disagreement is an opportunity to sharpen our position and improve our conversation skills.
- 2. When we set aside our need to win the argument, we open up the possibility of learning something new. If we know that our position will be respected, we may feel less defensive and more open to new ideas.
- 3. When entering into conversations for the sake of understanding rather than changing minds, the relationship between you and the other person can be strengthened. Statements like, “You make a good point...” “I agree with you that...”, “That’s something I think we both can agree upon.” can show respect and collaboration.

We reviewed conversation connectors and practiced using them with a partner.

Please encourage your student to practice using the conversation connectors at home to have more robust, respectful conversations.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

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Professional Development



Thinking about the perspectives of your students, how often do you encourage them to share their ideas and opinions? Have you ever changed your mind based on hearing their perspectives? What was the deciding factor for you?





Further Study

For Further Study

Katy Perry: Agree to Disagree (track 23 on Fingerprints)

Julia Dhar: How to disagree productively and find common ground TED@BCG

Toronto

https://www.ted.com/talks/julia_dhar_how_to_disagree_productively_and_find_common_ground





Lesson Complete!

