

Is there a problem with a lack of viewpoint diversity on campus?

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• 2006 and 2017 data show that about 60% professors are left of center

• Distribution shifted to the left

• Variation by discipline

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• Political diversity matters, but it's not everything!

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- No self-censorship by political orientation

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- What do we mean by viewpoint diversity?
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 Usually refers to non-progressive voices
- No self-censorship along political orientation
- What percent self-censor?
- 2019 survey:
 - 32% reluctant to give their views on politics
- More Republican students than Democrats
- Important, but even without self-censorship, there's still a problem!

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- Recognizing variation in how people think about identity
 - How salient is race, ethnicity, gender, etc...?
 - How salient should it be?

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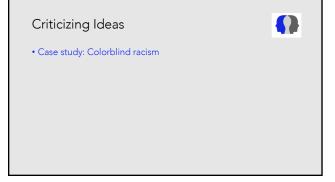
- What do we mean by viewpoint diversity?
- Having a wide range of political perspectives represented
 Usually refers to non-progressive voices
- No self-censorship along political orientation
- Recognizing variation in how people think about identity
- Criticizing ideas

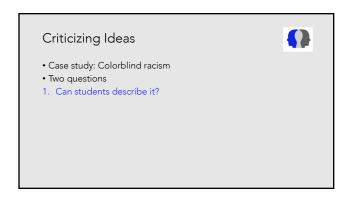
Criticizing Ideas



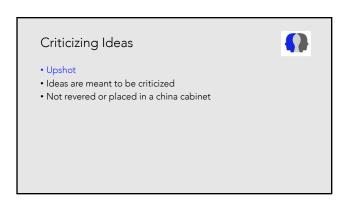
- Certain ideas treated as though they're above criticism
- Some should be!
- Earth is spheroid
- Earth revolves around the sun
- Water turns to ice at 32 degrees Fahrenheit
- Others?

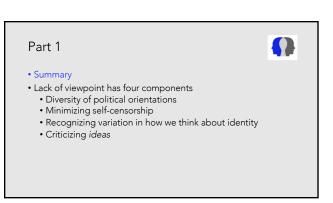
Criticizing Ideas • Certain ideas treated as though they're above criticism • Some should be! • Earth is spheroid • Earth revolves around the sun • Water turns to ice at 30 degrees Fahrenheit • Others? • What about colorblind racism, microaggressions, white privilege?











Part 2



Now what?

Reframe the discussion

Shift the conversation with:

- 1. Students
- 2. Instructors
- 3. Administrators and staff

How do we reframe the discussion?



- Humility
- Curiosity
- Frank conversations

How do we reframe the discussion?



Humility and curiosity

Distinction between facts and beliefs

- Blurry line between the two shapes our feelings towards others
- Examples:
- What percent of men would commit sexual assault if they knew they could get away with it?
- What percent of white U.S. adults are racist?

How do we reframe the discussion?



- These don't have factual answers:
 - What percent of men would commit sexual assault if they knew they could get away with it?
 - What percent of white U.S. adults are racist?

How do we reframe the discussion?



- Humility
- Curiosity
- Frank conversations
 - Intent
 - Sensitivity

Thank you!



For more information about my work, please go to:

www.diverseperspectivesconsulting.com

Link to "Beyond Bigots and Snowflakes" video series is there, as is a link to my co-authored book "Unassailable Ideas: How Unwritten Rules and Social Media Shape Discourse in American Higher Education"

Please help spread the word!