

Five Nations Network Annual Conference

Democratic talk: from discussion to deliberation

Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 January 2018
Dartmouth House, The Washington Mayfair Hotel and the Palace of Westminster, London, England

Conference Programme

Sunday 27 January 2018	
10.00-10.45	Conference registration
10.45	Welcome refreshment break
11.00-11.45	<p>Country Groups</p> <p>Participants are invited to think about these two questions. This is an opportunity for sharing successful strategies when using ‘talk’ in citizenship teaching activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the relationship between talk, democracy and citizenship? 2. What do you do in your classroom to reflect this?
11.45-11.55	<p>Welcome to the conference and programme orientation</p> <p><i>Liz Moorse and Deepa Shah</i></p>
11.55-12.30	<p>‘Democratic Deliberation: Inside and Outside’</p> <p><i>Dr Eilís Ward, National University of Ireland, Galway</i></p> <p>Mixed Country Group discussions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we teach young people about democracy and the role of talk/dialogue? 2. What forms of talk do we value in our own classrooms, and how do we help students to build their capacity for these? 3. What are the teaching demands (and risks) in running deliberative classrooms?
12.30-13.15	Lunch
13.15-14.35	<p>English-Speaking Union – Plenary</p> <p><i>Led by Leela Koenig</i></p> <p>The session will involve participants in a range of practical methods for placing oracy at the heart of teaching and learning around controversial topics, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of oracy skills for citizenship teaching – how can we use different forms of talk in the classroom to help students develop their ability to critically analyse the world around them? 2. Games and activities that introduce oracy skills and get students talking – how can we bolster students’ oracy skills, and create an environment conducive to democratic talk? 3. Discussion/debate formats for controversial topics – how do teachers’ strategies reflect and prepare students for ‘real world’ democratic talk, and the ways in which we engage with controversial, often complex political issues?
14.35-15.30	<p>Travel to Parliament</p> <p>Walk or take the tube to Parliament, quick cup of tea on arrival.</p>

15.30-17.20	Tour of Parliament, Parliamentary Education Centre and workshop <i>Led by David Carr</i>
17.20-17.30	Reflections on the day Participants: Complete a postcard before dinner – something you knew when you arrived and shared, something you learnt, something you are hoping for from day two.
17.30-18.00	Participants leave Parliament and return to Washington Mayfair Hotel. Check in to rooms
19.00	Pre-dinner drinks (pay as you go)
19.30-21.00	Conference dinner

Sunday 28 January 2018	
08.30-09.00	Check out of rooms Luggage may be left at the hotel
09.15-10.30	Seminars/workshops (1) Participants choose a session: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You're all talk... strategies & approaches for embedding critical oracy and dialogue across the curriculum 2. Using drama strategies to explore political issues 3. Controversial issues 4. Developing 'Political Generosity' through Classroom Deliberation
10.30-11.00	Five Nations Development Projects 'micro-presentations' Standing Up for Good: Exploring the Issues of Justice and Political Activism (Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Warwickshire, England) Building Capacity for Youth Participation and Deliberation in North Belfast. (Mercy College, County Antrim, Northern Ireland) Understanding the Welsh Assembly, Welsh politics and discussion and deliberation of Welsh legislation. (Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe, Wales) Includes refreshment break
11.00-12.15	Seminars/workshops (2) Participants choose a session: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You're all talk... strategies & approaches for embedding critical oracy and dialogue across the curriculum 2. Using drama strategies to explore political issues 3. Controversial issues 4. Developing 'Political Generosity' through Classroom Deliberation
12.15-13.00	Guided discussions in country groups Reflections from day 1 in country groups Review and reflective discussion based on what participants wrote on the postcards the previous day.

	<p>Guided discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Practice</i> – what can we do individually to move on our practice in promoting deliberation. What (if anything) should we do across the school, and within citizenship classes, to engage with the idea of deliberation? And are current practices sufficient? • <i>Institution</i> – what might you take away and use in your school/college? To what extent do schools operate as spaces for young people to routinely engage in deliberation that acknowledges real conflict and diverse world-views that are not easily reconciled? And to what extent do we gloss over them to ‘celebrate’ diversity? • <i>Policy</i> - How do our discussions and ideas about democratic talk and deliberative democracy align with the state of citizenship in our nation? What’s the priority for action in our nation?
13.00-13.15	<p>Final plenary with closing comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNDP awards ceremony! • Brief feedback from guided discussion groups • Conference closing comments • Completion of evaluation forms
13.15-14.15	<p>Lunch and conference close</p>