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Campus Conversations: Facilitating Temperance in an Intemperate Time

Janine A. Parry

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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Campus Conversations: Exercising Temperance in an Intemperate Time

Janine A. Parry, Political Science



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Campus Conversations: Facilitating Temperance in an Intemperate Time

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#RecallWhitmer

TRUMP RESPONSE TEAM

LIVE FREE
-OR-
DIE

STOP
THE
TYRANNY
OPEN
Michigan!!

The
Guardian



POLICE MURDER

STOP TO MURDER
BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER

FUCK THE FEDS

I GOT ALTITUDE
COPPER COLORADO
12:00

OUT NOW

...ST
ONG
TH
S!!

...TSH

...ICE

OUT NOW

TW



Tweet



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  @AOC · Jul 21

 US House candidate, NY-14

I never spoke to Rep. Yoho before he decided to accost me on the steps of the nation's Capitol yesterday.

Believe it or not, I usually get along fine w/ my GOP colleagues. We know how to check our legislative sparring at the committee door.

But hey, "b*tches" get stuff done. 



Quentin Young  @qpyoungnews · Jul 21

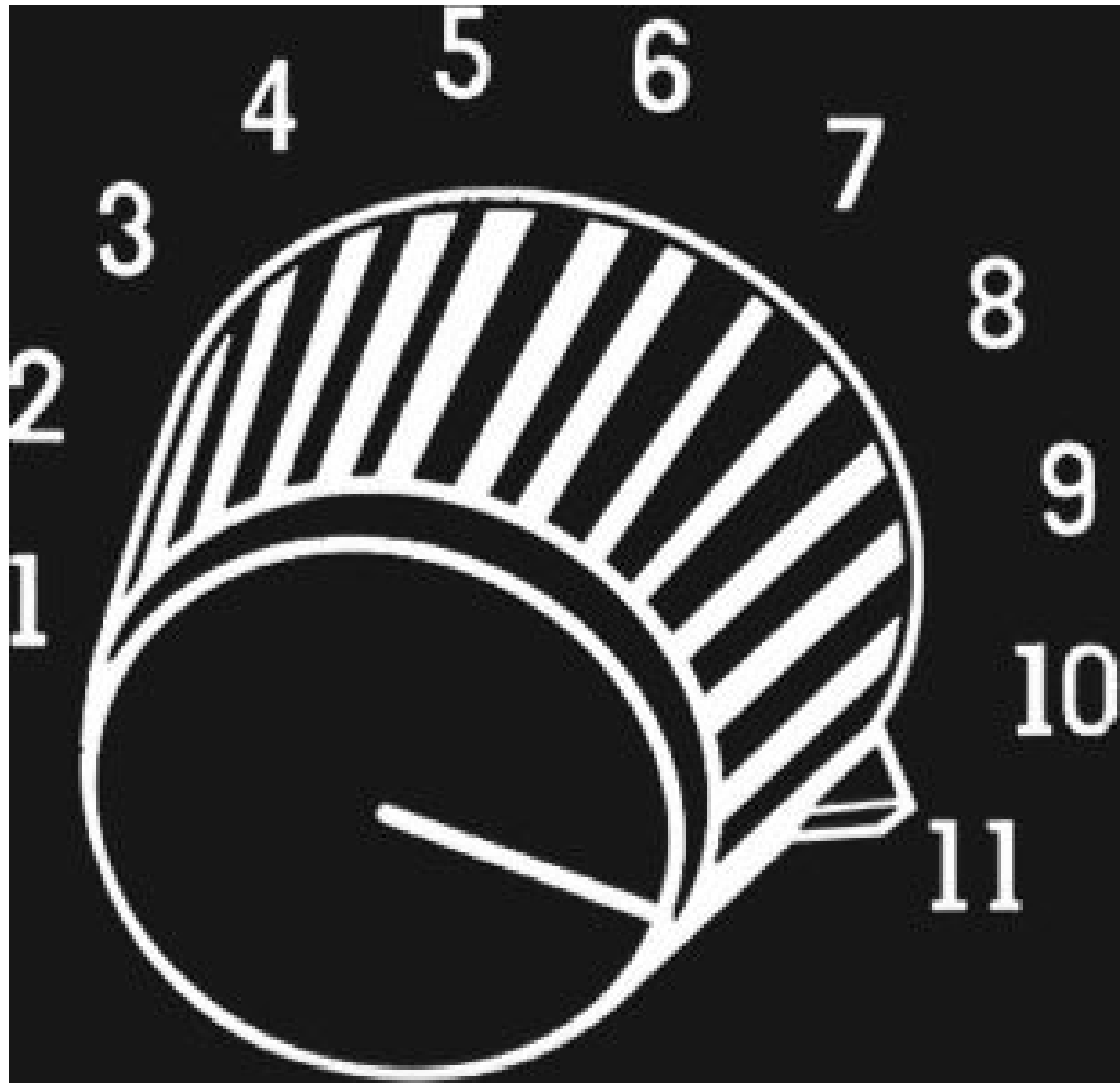
"Fucking bitch" says Florida's @RepTedYoho while accosting @AOC on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, according to report thehill.com/homenews/house...



Fighting Over Masks in Public Is the New American Pastime

In states like California, Texas and Florida, many essential workers have been given an additional task: conflict resolution.





Conversation starters...

- Preventive strategies
- Curative strategies

Preventive strategies

Big picture: create a community with a set of common practices

For me, these include the expectation that we...

Refer to others – as much as possible – by name

Example: me, continuing a conversation about Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson's support for the Obama-era expansion of Medicaid...

“We’ve read a lot about Arkansas’s propensity to challenge federal authority. Jack, can you add to the list of examples Fredi started?” AND

“Super! Now, Teia, why does our author say Hutchinson is NOT following suit now?”

Preventive strategies (cont'd)

Speak and behave as a “we”

Same Example:

“We’ve read a lot about Arkansas’s propensity to challenge federal authority. Jack, can you add to the list of examples Fredi started? And, then, Teia, why does our author say Hutchinson is NOT following suit?”

Another example:

If “everyone” is bringing in a current event next Thursday ... everyone includes the instructor.

Preventive strategies (cont'd)

Share *information*, not affect

GO EMOTE SOMEPLACE ELSE

WE'RE ALL STOCKED UP HERE



Preventive strategies (cont'd)

Share *information*, not affect

Example: me, in Gender and Politics, introducing students to the debate over a national Equal Rights Amendment...

“You might recall that our class pretests showed that we are squarely in line with most Americans in that most of us did not realize the U.S. constitution does not treat women as full citizens. Let’s talk about the origins, the mid-century journey, the time-of-death, and the revitalization of the Equal Rights Amendment – or the 28th, as its backers now call it – that’s been back in the news.”

Preventive strategies (con'd)

Model courtesy, humility, and your own humanity

Example: me, having just flubbed the name – AGAIN – of the same student...

“Dalton, how in the wide world have I botched your name twice?! I apologize. My brain is so full lately, information seems to be leaking out my ears.”

Curative strategies

Call out instances of intemperance GENTLY...

Example: me, after one student has chided another for sounding “like a Karen!”

“Ouch, Lilli. I run in a Karen-heavy cohort and that hurts their feelings. 😊”

“Order, order in the chamber, please! When we meet as a Committee of the Whole, we must abide by a minimum level of decorum.” 😊

Curative strategies

Reframe/soften the comment...

Example: me, responding to a comment about “Boomers” as the reason the “defund the police” movement has stalled...

“Hmm. What I’m hearing there is an interest in how political engagement among the oldest Americans compares to the youngest Americans. What do we know about that?”

Curative strategies (con'd)

Redirect toward course material...

“Okay, what does our author say about that idea? What have we read about public opinion and the regulation of guns?”

OR

“Interesting idea, Ty’CamRon. Can (someone) tie this to what we learned last week about how the courts have viewed sex discriminatory policies since the 1970s?”

Deflect ...

“This sounds like a conversation for another time. Let’s stick with today’s topic: how scholars measure and explain the wage gap. What do y’all remember about that from our last meeting?”

Both Preventive and Curative:

Keep making/encouraging small talk and other humanizing contact...

Welcome them with warmth:

“Good morning! I’m sure glad to see you fine people today!”

Appreciate the value of the non sequitur:

“Y’all, I grew this tomato! Bow before my mad farming skills!”

Help them get to know this community:

“Who’s seen the lights at the Fayetteville Square? They always throw the switch around Thanksgiving, folks. Check it out!”

Both Preventive and Curative (con'd):

Keep making/encouraging small talk and other humanizing contact...

Help them stay grounded in the world and connected with each other:

“Monday Fun Day: post a wildlife pic from your room/house/apt. on today’s thread!”

Throw them a bon-us:

“Bonus Point Friday: please describe on our discussion thread the best Halloween costume you’ve ever seen.”

Send them back out into a stressful world with care:

*“That’s all for today, folks. Remember to eat an orange, take a walk, and learn the names of your neighbors. Also remember: **I’m here to help!**”*

In sum:

- Create an atmosphere with a common set of expectations.
 - Preventively:
 - Refer to others by name
 - Speak and behave as a “we”
 - Share information, not affect
 - Model courtesy, humility, and humanity
 - Curatively:
 - Call out intemperance gently
 - Reframe/soften intemperate comments
 - Redirect intemperate comments toward course material
 - Deflect intemperate comments (“conversation for another time”)
- Both preventive and curative:
- Encourage small talk and other humanizing contact

In general, be like Anna:
when in doubt, “just do
the next right thing.”



I yield the remainder of
my time to YOU...

What questions do you
have?

What strategies do YOU
use?

Image Sources:

- Slide 1: <https://blog.blackswansecurity.com/wp-content/uploads/argument.jpg>
- Slide 4: <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/4b6GvszlR0/maxresdefault.jpg>
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