



DISCUSSION GUIDE

What is Reconciliation?

That is the challenge question we are asking youth in Canada between the ages of 14-18. Reconciliation means different things to different people, and understanding the breadth of perspectives is an important first step in fostering more meaningful dialogue.

Over the span of five units and follow-up challenge activities, Experiences Canada aims to encourage conversation and inquiry among Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. We will start with an Introductory unit that informs participants about the treaty rights and obligations that were agreed upon, the historic injustices that have impacted Indigenous populations since first contact, and some of the priority issues related to Reconciliation today, informed by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada. Following that introduction, each unit will explore some of those priority issues in greater detail and illustrate how all of them are interconnected. We will look at Language and Culture; Health and Well-being; Environment and Relationship with the Land, and Education and Economic Opportunity.



The five lesson plans are meant to complement Experiences Canada's Reconciliation Conversation webinars, which will be recorded live events. The recordings will be uploaded to our website [here](#) so that they may be revisited after the events for further discussion. All themes are connected to one another, and as such, you may decide to explore them in a different order than that presented here.

Below, you will find our guidelines for engaging in meaningful and respectful Reconciliation Conversations.

N.B. These lesson plans can be used to integrate the curriculum of your province/territory using your own pre-developed learning activities. Please adapt them to fit your unique context.



GUIDELINES FOR RECONCILIATION CONVERSATIONS

We believe strongly in creating a “Brave space” for learners - whether it be virtual or physical. In this type of space, learners and educators alike should embrace their discomfort, encourage meaningful dialogue, and recognize differences while respecting boundaries around safety. In order for true learning to occur, we believe all people must be challenged to think critically, and to deconstruct their own understandings of the world and the people around them. This inherently causes discomfort - we must learn to sit with ourselves and each other in this discomfort.

For more information on Brave Spaces, visit the following:

<https://alternativebreaks.org/safe-or-brave-spaces/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/581e9e06ff7c509a5ca2fe32/t/58f25fa937c58130853337df/1492279209799/04+AWARE-LA+Brave+Space+Guidelines+and+History.pdf>

<https://amplifier.org/pdf/education/Amplifier-Creating A Brave Space.pdf>

Before you begin to explore the 5 units, we encourage groups to use the following guidelines, though you may wish to create your own or add elements to fit your own context.

Brave Space Ground Rules

- I will listen with my ears, eyes and heart.
- I will embrace my discomfort.
- I will consider my privileges and how they impact my perspective.
- I will respect myself and others.
- I will seek clarification when I do not understand something.
- I will speak from my own experiences (“I” statements).
- I will acknowledge the experiences of others.
- I will honour what is shared, and I will share what I learn. Stories stay but lessons leave.