

## Problem scenarios and hypotheticals related to diversity

You may find it useful as an exercise to go through each scenario and brainstorm either by yourself or with others how you would handle each scenario below.

In a political science course, the instructor has assigned an article on feminism and pornography. You are a graduate TA and you will be teaching a section on this issue. The composition of your section is mostly female, with only one male student. The male student sends you an e-mail saying that he would like to be excused from section because he feels worried that he may have a point of view about the issue that may be “attacked” (in his words) in the discussion.

During one TA session, the class is having a very heated discussion about an issue involving race and racism in American politics. At one point in the discussion, a student refers to the opinion of another minority student in racially insensitive terms.

You are a professor in a large lecture course and during the first day of class a student asks to speak with you after class. The student says, “I would love to take your class, but I am afraid I cannot afford to buy all of the books on the syllabus, I am a student on significant financial aid.”

You are a graduate TA and you have just finished grading all of the final exams and you send them to the professor to be officially submitted. A week later, one student complains to the professor that you “have graded him/her down all semester because you are racist.”

You are an RA in a student dorm. Outside of the dorm room door of a student of color, it is apparent that someone wrote hateful words on his blackboard, expressing that his attendance at the university was unwelcome. The student later that night knocks on your door and asks you how he should proceed, given the hateful remarks.

You are a professor of a large lecture course, where you are dismayed by student evaluations which state that “you have trouble speaking English clearly.” This is despite the fact that you are a native speaker of English, and just happened to have parents from a non-US background.