Lesson 9: Teacher Resource Sheet - E Pluribus Unum - Civil Discourse in Practice (Part 1 of 2)

Discussion Topic: Cultural Adaptation vs. Preservation

Why This Topic Works for Synthesis

Connects to identity lessons: Personal and cultural aspects of who we are **Relates to integration metaphors**: Melting pot, mosaic, salad bowl applications

Involves competing goods: Legitimate values on multiple sides **Requires civil discourse**: Complex issue needing respectful dialogue **Relevant to students**: Real dilemmas they and their families navigate

Framing the Issue for Students

Not either/or: Most people engage in both adaptation and preservation in different contexts **Contextual factors**: Family settings vs. public spaces, different domains (language, food, dress, holidays)

Individual choice: Personal agency within family and community expectations **Mutual responsibility**: Both cultural maintenance and bridge-building matter

Avoiding Oversimplification

Multiple contexts: Same person might adapt in some situations, preserve in others Spectrum not binary: Degrees of adaptation and preservation, not absolute choices Mutual adaptation: Majority culture also changes through contact with minority cultures Systemic factors: Individual choices occur within larger social and political contexts

Group Formation and Assignment (Step 3 - 15 minutes)

Pre-Class Preparation

Determine group sizes based on class enrollment:

- 20-24 students: 8 Adaptation, 8 Preservation, 6-8 Moderators
- **25-30 students**: 10 Adaptation, 10 Preservation, 8-10 Moderators
- 31+ students: Consider 12 per position group, remainder as Moderators

Assignment method options:

- Random assignment: Draw names from hat, count off by threes
- Strategic assignment: Balance based on personality types (mix quiet/talkative students)
- **Student choice**: Allow selection but monitor for balance

Room arrangement planning:

- **Preparation phase**: Three distinct areas for group work
- **Discussion phase**: Semicircle or U-shape with Moderators at center/front

Group Assignment Process (First 5 minutes of Step 3)

Step 1: Announce groups and rationale

"We're going to have structured dialogue about cultural adaptation vs. preservation. You'll be assigned to argue for a specific position - this is about practicing civil discourse skills, not your personal beliefs."

Step 2: Form groups efficiently

- Call names by group rather than having students move randomly
- **Designate meeting areas** clearly: "Adaptation advocates, front left corner. Preservation advocates, front right corner. Moderators, center tables."
- **Distribute role cards** or handouts specific to each group

Step 3: Explain roles briefly

- **Position groups**: "Your job is to present the strongest possible case for your assigned position"
- **Moderators**: "Your job is to help the conversation be productive and find common ground"

Position Development Guidelines (Remaining 10 minutes of Step 3)

Adaptation Advocates - Key Arguments to Guide

Building bridges and connections:

- Creates opportunities for cross-cultural friendship and understanding
- Reduces barriers to social and economic participation
- Helps newcomers feel welcomed and included in broader community

Practical benefits:

- Career and educational opportunities
- Social acceptance and reduced discrimination
- Easier navigation of mainstream institutions

Flexibility as strength:

- Adaptability is valuable character strength
- Shows respect for new community's norms
- Demonstrates openness and learning orientation

Historical examples:

- Successful integration stories throughout American history
- Innovation and creativity from cultural blending
- Shared traditions that emerged from cultural exchange

Preservation Advocates - Key Arguments to Guide

Maintaining authentic identity:

- Psychological benefits of staying true to heritage
- Important for self-esteem and mental health
- Prevents loss of unique cultural wisdom and practices

Cultural continuity and heritage:

- Responsibility to preserve traditions for future generations
- Rich cultural practices that enrich broader society
- Historical memory and family/community connections

Diversity benefits:

- Different perspectives and approaches benefit everyone
- Cultural practices that address universal human needs
- Innovation comes from maintaining diverse approaches

Resistance to pressure:

- Courage to maintain identity despite social pressure
- Challenging unjust expectations for cultural conformity
- Preserving space for multiple ways of being American

Moderator/Synthesizer Group - Key Considerations

Contextual factors:

- Different domains (language, food, dress, holidays) might call for different approaches
- Family settings vs. public spaces require different strategies
- Generational differences in adaptation/preservation preferences

Balance points:

- Ways to express culture while being accessible to others
- Core values vs. cultural practices distinction
- Individual choice vs. community expectations navigation

Creative solutions:

- Both/and rather than either/or approaches
- Code-switching and multicultural competence
- Building bridges while maintaining roots

Small Group Preparation Support (Step 4 - 10 minutes)

Detailed Role Guidance for Internal Organization

Adaptation Advocates - Internal Organization

Recommended roles within group:

- Lead presenters (2): Opening statement and closing thoughts
- Evidence gatherers (2-3): Research examples and supporting details
- **Response team** (2-3): Handle questions and rebuttals
- Steel-manning specialist (1): Present opposing arguments fairly

Preparation tasks:

- 1. **Develop 3-4 main arguments** with specific examples
- 2. **Anticipate counterarguments** and prepare responses
- 3. **Practice steel-manning** the preservation position
- 4. **Identify values** to acknowledge in star-manning
- 5. Check arguments for logical fallacies

Preservation Advocates - Internal Organization

Same role structure as Adaptation group

Additional considerations:

- Cultural sensitivity: Ensure arguments don't stereotype any particular groups
- Balance examples: Include various cultural contexts, not just one tradition
- Address practicality: Acknowledge real-world challenges while maintaining position

Moderator/Synthesizer Group - Detailed Guidance

This group needs the most scaffolding as their role is most complex

Specific roles within Moderator group:

- **Discussion facilitator** (1): Manages flow, asks follow-up questions
- **Timekeeper** (1): Tracks time, signals transitions
- Common ground identifier (2): Listens for shared values and concerns
- Question coordinator (1): Manages clarifying question phase
- Synthesis presenter (1): Summarizes findings at end

Preparation tasks for Moderators:

- 1. **Review both positions** thoroughly to understand key arguments
- 2. Prepare transition phrases: "Let's move to questions," "I'm hearing both sides value..."
- 3. **Identify potential areas of agreement**: Family importance, respect, contribution to community
- 4. **Prepare follow-up questions**: "Can you give a specific example?" "How might that work in practice?"
- 5. **Plan synthesis structure**: What format will you use to present common ground?

Moderator preparation questions:

- What values do both positions seem to share?
- Where might compromise or middle ground exist?
- What questions could help clarify each side's reasoning?
- How might both approaches work in different contexts?

Teacher Circulation During Preparation

Time allocation (10 minutes total):

- **Minutes 1-3**: Check in with Moderator group (they need most support)
- Minutes 4-6: Circulate between position groups
- **Minutes 7-9**: Final check with all groups, address questions
- Minute 10: Transition preparation

Moderator Group Support Priorities

Common challenges and responses:

- "We don't know what to do": Refer to specific preparation tasks list
- "How do we moderate?": Practice transition phrases, explain timing
- "What if people get upset?": Role-play gentle redirection techniques

Key coaching points:

- Your job isn't to have opinions on the topic, but to help others express theirs
- Ask genuine questions to help clarify positions

- Look for shared values even when positions differ
- Keep discussion respectful by focusing on ideas, not people

Position Group Support

For both Adaptation and Preservation groups:

- Check argument quality: Are they avoiding fallacies?
- Encourage steel-manning: Can they fairly represent the other side?
- Suggest specific examples: Help them find concrete illustrations
- **Time management**: Are they dividing tasks effectively?

Red flags to address:

- Arguments that stereotype cultural groups
- Personal attacks or dismissive language about other position
- Over-reliance on weak or fallacious reasoning
- Failure to assign internal roles or divide tasks

Physical Setup and Logistics

Room Arrangement

Preparation phase (current lesson):

- Clear three distinct areas with adequate space for small group work
- **Provide materials**: Chart paper, markers, handouts for each group
- Teacher circulation path: Plan how you'll move between all three groups efficiently

Material Distribution

For all groups:

- Discussion topic handout with position descriptions
- Civil Dialogue Template for note-taking
- Scratch paper for preparation notes

Additional for Moderators:

- List of potential synthesis questions
- Timing guide for discussion phases
- Common ground identification worksheet

Civil Discourse Integration for Preparation

Skills to Monitor For During Preparation

Steel-manning preparation: Groups practicing fair representation of opposing arguments **Star-manning preparation**: Identifying good intentions and values behind different positions

Fallacy checking: Groups reviewing their arguments for logical soundness

Perspective-shifting: Understanding how personal experiences influence viewpoints

Respectful framing: Preparing to challenge ideas while respecting persons

Unit Concept Connections to Emphasize

Identity Complexity

Prompt students to connect:

- "How does this discussion relate to your identity maps from early lessons?"
- "Which aspects of identity might be more or less adaptable?"
- "How do character strengths help navigate these choices?"

Philosophical Approaches to Racial Identity

Make explicit connections:

- Different philosophical approaches might influence adaptation/preservation choices
- Same person might use different approaches in different contexts
- Understanding multiple approaches helps navigate complex decisions

Integration Metaphors

Apply previous learning:

- "Which integration metaphor best describes each position?"
- "How might different metaphors work in different contexts?"
- "Do these metaphors capture the full complexity of the issue?"

Pluralism and Competing Goods

Prepare for synthesis:

- "How does this exemplify competing goods rather than good vs. evil?"
- "What makes this a pluralistic challenge?"
- "How do democratic processes help navigate these tensions?"

Preparation for Tomorrow's Discussion

Assignment for Tomorrow

Students should review:

- Civil Dialogue Template Part 2
- SLEW Framework handout
- Their group's preparation work from today

Transition Message

"Tomorrow we'll put all your preparation into practice with a structured civil dialogue that applies everything we've learned about respectful discourse across differences."

Contingency Planning

If Groups Finish Preparation Early

Extension activities:

- Practice steel-manning each other's arguments within the group
- Develop additional examples or evidence
- Prepare questions they'd like to ask the other side

If Groups Need More Preparation Time

Adjustment strategies:

- Allow first 10 minutes of tomorrow's lesson for final preparation
- Have groups identify their strongest 2-3 arguments to focus on
- Emphasize quality over quantity of arguments

Managing Resistance to Assigned Positions

If students object to their assigned position:

- Remind them this is about practicing skills, not expressing personal beliefs
- Emphasize that understanding multiple perspectives is a valuable skill
- Note that they may discover insights about positions they hadn't considered
- Frame as intellectual challenge and character development opportunity

Lesson 9: E Pluribus Unum - Civil Discourse in Practice (Unit Wrap-Up)

Teacher Resource Sheet

Discussion Topic: Cultural Adaptation vs. Preservation

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Multiple contexts: Same person might adapt in some situations, preserve in others

Spectrum not binary: Degrees of adaptation and preservation, not absolute choices

Mutual adaptation: Majority culture also changes through contact with minority cultures

Systemic factors: Individual choices occur within larger social and political contexts

Group Preparation Guidelines

Adaptation Advocates - Key Arguments

Building bridges and connections:

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- Reduces barriers to social and economic participation
- Helps newcomers feel welcomed and included in broader community

Practical benefits:

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Moderator/Synthesizer Group - Key Considerations

Contextual factors:

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Balance points:

- Ways to express culture while being accessible to others
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Creative solutions:

- Both/and rather than either/or approaches
- Code-switching and multicultural competence
- Building bridges while maintaining roots

Civil Discourse Integration

Skills to Monitor For

Steel-manning: Students presenting opposing arguments in strongest form

Star-manning: Acknowledging good intentions and values behind different positions

Fallacy avoidance: Logically sound arguments that address real issues

Perspective-shifting: Understanding how personal experiences influence viewpoints

Respectful engagement: Challenging ideas while respecting persons

Common Challenges and Responses

Reverting to personal experience only:

- "That's a valuable perspective how might it apply more broadly?"
- "Can you steel-man the other side's concern about that?"

Making it about specific ethnic groups:

- "Let's keep this about general principles rather than specific communities"
- "How might these principles apply across different cultural backgrounds?"

False dichotomy thinking:

- "Are there ways to address both concerns?"
- "What might a both/and approach look like?"

Getting too abstract:

- "Can you give a concrete example of how that might work?"
- "How have you seen this play out in real situations?"

Synthesis and Common Ground

Potential Areas of Agreement

Shared values:

- Importance of family and community connections
- Desire for respect and acceptance
- Value of contributing to society
- Appreciation for cultural richness

Common concerns:

- Wanting to belong and feel accepted
- Maintaining important relationships
- Passing on meaningful traditions to children
- Contributing positively to community

Practical solutions:

- Context-appropriate choices
- Mutual adaptation rather than one-way assimilation
- Celebrating diversity while building unity
- Individual choice within community support

Questions for Finding Common Ground

Values exploration:

- "What do both sides care about most deeply?"
- "Where do you see shared concerns or goals?"
- "How might different approaches serve similar values?"

Creative problem-solving:

- "Are there ways to honor both adaptation and preservation?"
- "What would success look like for both perspectives?"
- "How might we create communities where both approaches are valued?"

Unit Concept Connections

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Apply previous learning:

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Pluralism and Competing Goods

Synthesize understanding:

- "How does this exemplify competing goods rather than good vs. evil?"
- "What makes this a pluralistic challenge?"
- "How do democratic processes help navigate these tensions?"

Assessment Through Observation

Content Understanding

Identity concepts: Students reference race, ethnicity, culture, character strengths appropriately **Philosophical sophistication**: Recognition of multiple valid approaches to identity questions

Pluralism application: Understanding of competing goods and democratic participation **Integration awareness**: Sophisticated understanding of cultural navigation challenges

Skill Development

Civil discourse techniques: Effective use of steel-manning, star-manning, respectful disagreement **Logical reasoning**: Arguments free from major fallacies, addressing strongest opposing points **Perspective-taking**: Understanding how different experiences lead to different viewpoints **Common ground identification**: Finding shared values and potential synthesis points

Preparation for Future Learning

Democratic participation: Skills for engaging in civic discussions **Cross-cultural competence**: Ability to navigate diverse communities respectfully **Critical thinking**: Analyzing complex social issues with nuance **Character development**: Applying virtues to challenging interpersonal situations

Reflection and Closure

Individual Reflection Prompts

Identity evolution: "How has your understanding of identity (your own and others') evolved through this unit?" **Skill development**: "Which civil discourse skill was most valuable today and how might you apply it outside school?" **Character growth**: "Which character strength do you want to develop further based on today's discussion?"

Unit Synthesis Questions

E Pluribus Unum: "How do individual identities contribute to shared American identity?" **Democratic participation**: "What role do civil discourse skills play in making democracy work?" **Personal application**: "How will you use what you've learned in future conversations about difficult topics?"

Homework Reflection Structure

Comprehensive synthesis: 2-page reflection addressing identity evolution, skill development, and character growth **Specific application**: Concrete plan for developing chosen character strength **Forward-looking**: How learning applies to future academic and civic participation

Differentiation and Support

For Advanced Students

Meta-analysis role: Observe and comment on effective civil discourse techniques during discussion

Synthesis leadership: Help identify common ground and creative solutions **Peer coaching**: Support classmates in applying civil discourse skills effectively

For Struggling Students

Focused skill practice: Choose one civil discourse technique to focus on rather than trying all

Concrete examples: Provide specific sentence stems and example responses **Partner support**: Pair with stronger students during preparation and discussion

For Diverse Perspectives

Cultural sensitivity: Ensure examples don't stereotype or oversimplify any cultural experiences Multiple entry points: Allow different ways to connect personal experience to broader concepts Validation of complexity: Acknowledge that these issues affect different students differently

Transition to Next Unit

Skills Transfer

Document progress: Note individual student growth in civil discourse skills **Celebrate development**: Acknowledge how much students have grown since beginning of unit **Preview application**: "You'll use these same skills as we explore how American government structures handle pluralism"

Conceptual Bridge

From individual to institutional: "We've learned about personal identity and interpersonal skills - next we'll see how institutions manage diversity"

Democratic preparation: "These skills prepare you for civic participation in diverse democracy"

Ongoing relevance: "You'll continue developing these abilities throughout high school and beyond"

Group Setup and Management Tips

Pre-Class Preparation

Determine group sizes based on class enrollment:

- **20-24 students**: 8 Adaptation, 8 Preservation, 6-8 Moderators
- **25-30 students**: 10 Adaptation, 10 Preservation, 8-10 Moderators
- 31+ students: Consider 12 per position group, remainder as Moderators

Assignment method options:

- Random assignment: Draw names from hat, count off by threes
- Strategic assignment: Balance based on personality types (mix quiet/talkative students)
- **Student choice**: Allow selection but monitor for balance

Room arrangement planning:

- **Preparation phase**: Three distinct areas for group work
- **Discussion phase**: Semicircle or U-shape with Moderators at center/front

Group Assignment Process (5 minutes)

Step 1: Announce groups and rationale "We're going to have structured dialogue about cultural adaptation vs. preservation. You'll be assigned to argue for a specific position - this is about practicing civil discourse skills, not your personal beliefs."

Step 2: Form groups efficiently

- Call names by group rather than having students move randomly
- **Designate meeting areas** clearly: "Adaptation advocates, front left corner. Preservation advocates, front right corner. Moderators, center tables."
- **Distribute role cards** or handouts specific to each group

Step 3: Explain roles briefly

- **Position groups**: "Your job is to present the strongest possible case for your assigned position"
- Moderators: "Your job is to help the conversation be productive and find common ground"

Detailed Role Guidance

Adaptation Advocates - Internal Organization

Recommended roles within group:

- Lead presenters (2): Opening statement and closing thoughts
- Evidence gatherers (2-3): Research examples and supporting details
- **Response team** (2-3): Handle questions and rebuttals
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Preparation tasks:

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Preservation Advocates - Internal Organization

Same role structure as Adaptation group Additional considerations:

- Cultural sensitivity: Ensure arguments don't stereotype any particular groups
- Balance examples: Include various cultural contexts, not just one tradition
- Address practicality: Acknowledge real-world challenges while maintaining position

Moderator/Synthesizer Group - Detailed Guidance

This group needs the most scaffolding as their role is most complex

Specific roles within Moderator group:

- **Discussion facilitator** (1): Manages flow, asks follow-up questions
- **Timekeeper** (1): Tracks time, signals transitions
- Common ground identifier (2): Listens for shared values and concerns
- Question coordinator (1): Manages clarifying question phase
- Synthesis presenter (1): Summarizes findings at end

Preparation tasks for Moderators:

- 1. **Review both positions** thoroughly to understand key arguments
- 2. Prepare transition phrases: "Let's move to questions," "I'm hearing both sides value..."
- 3. **Identify potential areas of agreement**: Family importance, respect, contribution to community
- 4. **Prepare follow-up questions**: "Can you give a specific example?" "How might that work in practice?"
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Moderator preparation questions:

- What values do both positions seem to share?
- Where might compromise or middle ground exist?
- What questions could help clarify each side's reasoning?
- How might both approaches work in different contexts?

Physical Setup and Logistics

Room Arrangement

Preparation phase (10 minutes):

- Clear three distinct areas with adequate space for small group work
- Provide materials: Chart paper, markers, handouts for each group
- Teacher circulation path: Plan how you'll move between all three groups efficiently

Discussion phase (20 minutes):

- Rearrange quickly: Have students move chairs into discussion formation
- Moderator positioning: Central location where they can see all participants
- Sight lines: Ensure all students can see each other, not just teacher

Material Distribution

For all groups:

- Discussion topic handout with position descriptions
- Civil Dialogue Template for note-taking
- Scratch paper for preparation notes

Additional for Moderators:

- List of potential synthesis questions
- Timing guide for discussion phases
- Common ground identification worksheet

Transition Management

From preparation to discussion:

- 2-minute warning: "Start wrapping up your preparation"
- Clear transition signal: "Time to rearrange for our discussion"
- Efficient movement: Give specific instructions for chair arrangement
- Materials management: What to bring to discussion, what to leave behind

Teacher Circulation During Preparation

Time allocation (10 minutes total):

- **Minutes 1-3**: Check in with Moderator group (they need most support)
- Minutes 4-6: Circulate between position groups
- Minutes 7-9: Final check with all groups, address questions
- Minute 10: Transition preparation

Moderator group support priorities:

Common challenges and responses:

- "We don't know what to do": Refer to specific preparation tasks list
- "How do we moderate?": Practice transition phrases, explain timing
- "What if people get upset?": Role-play gentle redirection techniques

Key coaching points:

- Your job isn't to have opinions on the topic, but to help others express theirs
- Ask genuine questions to help clarify positions
- Look for shared values even when positions differ
- **Keep discussion respectful** by focusing on ideas, not people

Position group support:

For both Adaptation and Preservation groups:

- Check argument quality: Are they avoiding fallacies?
- Encourage steel-manning: Can they fairly represent the other side?
- Suggest specific examples: Help them find concrete illustrations
- **Time management**: Are they dividing tasks effectively?

Red flags to address:

• Arguments that stereotype cultural groups

- Personal attacks or dismissive language about other position
- Over-reliance on weak or fallacious reasoning
- Failure to assign internal roles or divide tasks

Discussion Phase Management

Moderator coaching during discussion:

Provide subtle support without taking over:

- **Hand signals**: Thumbs up for good facilitation, gentle redirect signals
- Whispered suggestions: Brief coaching during natural pauses
- Step in only if necessary: If discussion becomes disrespectful or unproductive

If Moderators struggle:

- **Provide sentence stems**: Write on board: "I'm hearing both sides value..."
- Ask leading questions: "Moderators, what common themes are you noticing?"
- Share facilitation: "Let me help the moderators by asking..."

Supporting all students:

Encouraging participation:

- Eye contact and nods to affirm good contributions
- Gentle prompts: "Building on what [name] said..."
- **Process reminders**: Point to civil discourse techniques when you see them

Managing challenges:

- **Dominant speakers**: Work with moderators to encourage broader participation
- Quiet students: Provide specific openings: "We haven't heard from this side yet"
- Off-topic drift: Help moderators redirect: "Let's return to the main question"

Assessment and Observation Framework

What to observe in each group:

Position groups:

• Quality of steel-manning and star-manning attempts

- Logical reasoning without fallacies
- Respectful engagement with opposing views
- Effective use of evidence and examples

Moderator group:

- Effective facilitation and time management
- Accurate identification of common ground
- Skillful question asking and redirection
- Synthesis quality and fairness

Documentation method:

Simple observation sheet:

- Student names by group
- Quick notes on skill demonstration
- Specific examples of effective civil discourse
- Areas needing reinforcement in future lessons

Contingency Planning

If discussion stalls:

Moderator prompts to suggest:

- "Can you give us a specific example of that?"
- "What would that look like in practice?"
- "How might someone from the other side respond to that?"

If discussion becomes heated:

Intervention strategies:

- 1. Pause and reset: "Let's take a breath and remember our civil discourse goals"
- 2. **Refocus on skills**: "This is great practice for using our steel-manning techniques"
- 3. **Return to structure**: "Let's make sure we're following our discussion format"

If groups finish preparation early:

Extension activities:

• Practice steel-manning each other's arguments within the group

- Develop additional examples or evidence
- Prepare questions they'd like to ask the other side

If groups need more preparation time:

Adjustment strategies:

- Reduce discussion time slightly to allow for thorough preparation
- Have groups share preparation progress to identify what's essential
- Focus on quality over quantity of arguments