

Crosswalks Talks
White Privilege
Friday, February 24, 2006
Ground Rules for Discussing Difficult Issues*

1. Acknowledge that oppression (i.e., racism, classism, sexism, etc) exists.
2. Acknowledge that one of the mechanisms of oppression (racism, classism, sexism, etc.) is that we have been systematically taught misinformation about our own group and especially members of devalued/subordinate groups (this is true for both dominant and subordinate group members).
3. Agree not to blame ourselves or others for the misinformation we have learned in the past but accept responsibility for not repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.
4. Agree not to blame victims for their oppression.
5. Assume that people (both the groups we study and the members of the class) are always doing the best they can.
6. Actively pursue information about our own groups and that of others.
7. Share information about our groups with other members of the class and we will never demean, devalue, or in any way "put down" people for their experiences.
8. Agree to actively combat the myths and stereotypes about our own groups and other groups so that we can break down the walls that prohibit group cooperation and group gain.
9. Create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. If members of the class wish to make comments that they do not want repeated outside the classroom, they can preface their remarks with a request and the class will agree not to repeat the remarks.

*written by Lynn Weber Cannon, Memphis State University, 1986