

WEBINAR: How should social work education respond to the changing political landscape?  
Council on Social Work Education  
Learning Academy  
Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice

**Discussion Guide**

Questions for Faculty

1. What do you see as your students' main concerns and reactions related to the current political climate?
2. *"It has been said that the world does not present us with problems, but with messes. In order to move toward solutions, we turn messes into problems by breaking them down, but even more importantly, by defining and working toward an ideal."* What are some ways we can help students make sense of the new political climate drawing from this perspective?
3. What would you like your teaching to achieve for your students in terms of helping them respond to the current political climate?

Questions for Students

1. What are your main concerns about the current political climate?
2. *"It has been said that the world does not present us with problems but with messes. In order to move toward solutions, we turn messes into problems by breaking them down, but even more importantly, by defining and working toward an ideal."* Can you think of some specific "messes" that we are facing in the current political climate and how we might make sense of those messes by drawing from this perspective?
3. Had you lived during the times of [the Great Society, Jane Addams, Frederick Douglass] what do you think it would have been like to practice social work then? How would you feel about the life chances of clients? How does your view of what it would have meant to practice social work in those times compare to how you think it will be when you start your career given the current historical times?

**Teaching Resources**

*Stirring Up Justice: Writing and Reading to Change the World*, by Jessica Singer Early (Heinemann, 2006).

*Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by John C. Bean, (John Wiley and Sons, 2011).

"Advocacy and Argumentation in the Public Arena," by Vicki Lens, *Social Work* (2005, 50:3, 231-238).

"How Colleges Can Teach Students to Be Good Citizens," by Shannon Najmabadi, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 13, 2017.