25 Ways to Bring Heterodoxy to Campus

1. Read about membership and join the Heterodox Academy (HxA) community here.

2. If you are already an HxA member, invite your colleagues to join HxA too.

3. Join or start an HxCommunities group to accelerate reforms in your particular field of study.

4. Organize a panel with colleagues in your discipline about open inquiry and viewpoint diversity for your professional association’s next conference.

5. Visit our member database to connect with colleagues at your own or nearby institutions – meet for coffee or join an email thread to discuss campus issues.

6. Organize a public conversation, perhaps with other heterodox enthusiasts, about a challenging topic facing your campus. Set ground rules that include an expectation that all perspectives are welcome and all ideas are worthy of challenge.

7. Run a Free Intelligent Conversation event on your campus.

8. Encourage debate by bringing disagreeing speaker pairs to your campus through The Village Square’s [Respect & Rebellion] project.

9. When you encounter students eager to improve campus climate through ideological diversity and constructive discourse, suggest they start a chapter of BridgeUSA offer to serve as their advisor.

10. Advocate for or serve on the committee of graduate students in your department who are struggling with thesis or dissertation requirements because the questions they’re considering are somehow “off limits.”

11. Add language to your syllabus to set the tone for open inquiry in your courses. See the HxA resource: Advice on Syllabus Language.

12. Invite applicants from a range of ideological perspectives to work in your department or lab through job advertisements/postings, non-discrimination statements, and on your faculty website. See the HxA resource: Advice for Faculty Job Ads.

13. Ask your academic dean to consider offering refuge to an academic in exile from their home country via Scholars at Risk.

14. Encourage your office of institutional research to administer the Campus Expression Survey to understand the expression climate on your campus.

15. Engage with faith leaders on campus to understand how you can collaborate or organize campus seminars, workshops, or visiting speakers that encourage constructive discourse surrounding differences in faith-based views.

16. Use social media to demonstrate how and how not to foster open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in online posting and communications.

17. Contribute to the HxA blog to tell the world about your successes, innovations, and research. Submission guidelines are available here.

18. Write an op-ed for your local paper about the value of viewpoint diversity in solving a problem your community faces.

19. Say ‘yes’ to opportunities to serve on committees where you can uphold the values of open inquiry and viewpoint diversity. Examples include the curriculum, hiring, diversity, and conference program committees. See HxA resource: Shaping Campus Culture through Service.

20. Reach out to your colleagues in residence life and student development to ask if and how you might be able to support their efforts – including in the first-year orientation program – to help students develop the habits of heart and mind to engage across lines of difference.
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15 Utilize the OpenMind platform in your courses or research to help students understand how their thinking can go awry and to prepare them for constructive disagreement.

16 Assign the paper or audio-book version of All Minus One or essays from the HxA blog in your classes.

17 Utilize The Flip Side to show students how people on different sides of the political spectrum are thinking about current events.

18 Work with the Center for Teaching and Learning or other faculty development bodies to organize training for faculty in methods to help students’ engage constructively across lines of difference in the classroom and beyond.

19 To the extent your teaching schedule allows, offer a course on viewpoint diversity, open inquiry, and/or constructive disagreement. Example course syllabi are highlighted on the HxA blog.

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Of course, this list is far from exhaustive! As HxA and communities supporting heterodox ideals continue to grow, we look forward to hearing – and amplifying – other ideas and efforts from our colleagues. Let’s keep the conversation going.