Survey: Engaging across difference

You have been asked to complete this survey as part of a research project conducted by Dr. Shawna Shapiro, a faculty member at Middlebury College. The research project is called “Rhetorical Agency among Middlebury College Students” and is designed to further our understanding of Middlebury students’ experiences engaging controversial issues with one another, both in-person and online. The survey usually takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Your responses are entirely voluntary.  This survey is designed to be confidential. , meaning that your responses will not be linked to your identity. By completing and submitting the survey, you affirm that you are at least 18 years old and that you give your consent for Dr. Shapiro to use your answers in her research. If you have any questions about this research before or after you complete the survey, please contact Dr. Shapiro at [sshapiro@middlebury.edu](mailto:sshapiro@middlebury.edu). If you have any concerns or questions about your rights as a participant in this research, please contact the Chair of the Middlebury College Institutional Review Board at [IRB@middlebury.edu](mailto:irb@middlebury.edu).

1. To what extent do you value having conversations (both in-person and virtual) about controversial issues with people whose opinions or experiences differ significantly from your own? *(choose 1-5, with 1 being “not at all” and 5 being “extremely important)*
2. How often have you had these sorts of conversations while at Middlebury?   
   *(daily, weekly, monthly, rarely, never)*
3. Where are these conversations most likely to occur? (check all that apply)

*(classrooms, dining halls, residence halls, McCullough, talks and other public events, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, texting, phone calls, GroupMe, BeyondtheGreen, other?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)*

1. In senior surveys, many Middlebury students have said they often find it difficult to engage with others whose views on controversial topics differ from their own. Please comment on whether you agree, and if so, discuss what makes these types of discussions difficult *(short answer)*
2. Have your thoughts on engaging different opinions at Middlebury changed in any significant ways since the 2016 presidential election? Please explain *(short answer)*
3. Is there anything you would like to add about your experience engaging difficult conversations at Middlebury? *(short answer)*
4. If you would be willing to take part in a Skype interview or focus group about this topic in the future, please enter your Middlebury e-mail address below: *(short answer)*

**Section 2: Student Demographics**

We would like to know a bit more about you, to ensure a diverse representation among participants, and to allow us to identify trends within and across groups.

1. Class Year *(2017.5, 2018, 2018.5, 2019, 2019.5, 2020, 2020.5, 2021, 2021.5)*
2. Major(s)/Academic Interest(s)? *(short answer)*
3. Gender? *(male, female, transgender, Prefer not to say, other \_\_\_\_\_\_)*
4. Race/Ethnicity? *(Arab/Middle Eastern, Asian, Biracial/Multiracial, Black/African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Native, Pacific Islander, White, other: \_\_\_\_\_\_)*

1. How would you describe your political tendencies? *(long answer)*
2. Thank you for completing this survey! If there is anything more you would like to tell us about yourself or your experiences, please feel free to add it here: *(long answer)*