

Talking About Residential Schools with Students:

A Digital Resource Guide for Settler/Non-Indigenous Faculty

Please click on the underlined phrases for links

Tips for Class Discussion	Resources
<p style="text-align: center;">Acknowledge Trauma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that discussing Residential Schools can bring up a range of feelings and that it may trigger personal, collective, and intergenerational trauma. Set aside a specific time to answer questions and discuss, and allow students who don't wish to be present to opt-out. Provide mental health supports and resources. End difficult conversations with a moment of reflection, collective movement (for example, you could encourage students to stretch or breath in way that feels comfortable for them), or care (for example, you could invite students to share self-care strategies) before moving on. Practice your own self-care and make use of supports; teaching is emotional labour! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Residential School Crisis Line (24/7 telephone support) emotional & crisis supports for former Residential School students 1-866-925-4419 KUU-US Crisis Services (24/7 support) 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717) 1-833-MÉTIS-BC (1-833-638-4722) Adult/Elder: 1-250-723-4050 Hope for Wellness (24/7 telephone and online) Mental health counselling and crisis intervention for Indigenous peoples: 1-855-242-3310 Fraser Health Crisis Line (24/7 telephone support) Crisis intervention counselling, emotional support, and information on local services: 1-877-820-7444 or 604-951-8855 KPU offers counselling supports and a 24/7 student support program KPU offers employee mental health supports
<p style="text-align: center;">Be Clear, Factual, Honest, and Kind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide context. Remember that residential schools are part of broader historical <i>and ongoing</i> colonial systems. Be specific and try to use the right terminology. If you can't answer a question or don't know what terminology to use, that's ok! Acknowledge it and seek out the information later. Avoid minimizing to avoid trauma & discomfort, and avoid expressing shock. Instead, acknowledge that the facts are traumatic (and offer supports) and note that Indigenous communities have worked for generations to document and share the truth of residential schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TRC's Final Reports (including Vol. 4: Missing Children and Unmarked Burials); Tamara Starblanket's Suffer the Little Children: Genocide, Indigenous Nations, and the Canadian State; Robert Joseph's 21 Things You May not Know About the Indian Act; and Chelsea Vowel's Indigenous Writes: a guide to First Nations, Metis & Inuit issues in Canada are excellent places to begin learning about colonization and genocide in Canada. UBC's Indigenous Foundations is a great place to build vocabulary and gain background knowledge. 9 Tips for Difficult Classroom Conversations
<p style="text-align: center;">Uphold Indigenous Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are going to draw from books, articles, news reports, or social media, centre Indigenous experiences and voices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't burden Indigenous friends and colleagues or demand labour — hold space for people to grieve. Remember that Indigenous peoples and experiences are multifaceted. Teach about Indigenous joy, humour, resistance, resurgence, and resilience in addition to educating students about colonial harms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPU Library's Indigenous Studies Guide (curated by Librarian Rachel Chong) is an excellent place to start with incorporating and upholding Indigenous voices. The guide offers a wide variety of genres & mediums. Pulling Together: A Guide for Indigenization of Post-Secondary Institutions by Asma-na-hi Antoine, Rachel Mason, Roberta Mason, Sophia Palahicky, and Carmen Rodriguez de France offers advice on how to incorporate Indigenous voices in an ethical way.
<p style="text-align: center;">What Now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many people are feeling helpless and wondering what they can do to support Indigenous Nations and/or address historical and ongoing harm. Share solutions and recommendations with your students; remind them that they have the power to make change! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided 94 Calls to Action, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls provided recommendations in their Final Report BC Campus has curated a list of "Actions for reconciliation as citizens and educators" Wear orange and support Indigenous organizations