

From: [Gabriele Bauer](#)
To: [Gabriele Bauer](#)
Subject: Election-related Resources and Strategies
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 5:21:54 PM



October 28, 2024

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

As we approach the upcoming presidential election, many of us, along with our students, may be feeling heightened stress. The Provost's Office wants to offer some resources and strategies for approaching the election that are supportive of faculty and foster a positive, respectful working and learning environment.

Faculty whose subject areas are not directly related to the election should not feel an obligation to address it with their students. The University recognizes that all of us have our own feelings about political events and that many faculty may not be comfortable or prepared to facilitate class discussions on these topics. Faculty are not required to hold discussions about the election; a class period covering planned course material rather than current events can offer a valuable respite from the news for faculty and students alike, particularly if students have back-to-back classes in which the election is being discussed.

Other faculty may wish to address the election as a way of supporting students and generating engaged dialogue around this significant current event. Faculty should do so if you feel prepared and if it is appropriate to your material and/or the classroom atmosphere you have established. Attached to this email are some strategies for managing class discussion around controversial, emotionally charged topics such as the upcoming election. The next issue of VITALITY—VITAL teaching ideas—will offer additional suggestions for faculty instructional actions that can help students process stressful events, such as the upcoming election. If you intend to address the election with your students, please spend

some time with these materials and plan a discussion that fosters mutual respect and inclusivity. By balancing empathy, structure, and a commitment to intellectual inquiry, faculty can create a classroom environment where students feel comfortable discussing important political events while also remaining focused on academic goals.

All faculty are asked to direct students to the many upcoming election-related campus events that have been planned to create space outside the classroom for our Villanova community to learn and discuss. These include community conversations, listening circles, support groups, panels, and a town hall. The full schedule can be found on [Villanova's Election Resources webpage](#).

Faculty are encouraged to care for themselves during this stressful period and are reminded that our [Health Advocate / Employee Assistance Plan](#) is a resource available to all full-time Villanova employees.

Thank you for all you do for our students and for Villanova.

Sincerely,

Craig Wheeland, Senior Vice Provost for Academics
Randy Weinstein, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
Alice Dailey, Director of Faculty Affairs