

# Ethics in Data Science

## Guidelines for Class Discussions

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In this class we will often touch on issues that are controversial, touch on diverse and strongly held beliefs, and address deeply personal issues of identity and culture. While we want to have a healthy and vigorous debate, we must be able to express our views without attacking others in a personal way. To that end, here are some guidelines for healthy class discussions.

- Respect others rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own.
- When you disagree, challenge or criticize the idea, not the person.
- Listen carefully to what others are saying even when you disagree with what is being said. Comments that you make (asking for clarification, sharing critiques, expanding on a point, etc.) should reflect that you have paid attention to the speakers comments.
- Respond to what is said without attributing motivation to the speaker (this can be very challenging).
- Be courteous. Dont interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking. Be aware of messages you may be communicating with your body language.
- Support your statements. Use evidence and provide a rationale for your points.
- Share responsibility for including all voices in the discussion. If you have much to say, try to hold back a bit; if you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to contribute to the discussion.
- If you are offended by something or think someone else might be, speak up and don't leave it for someone else to have to respond to it.
- Recognize that we are all still learning. Be willing to change your perspective, and make space for others to do the same.
- Remember that our primary commitment is to learn from each other.
- Be careful not to generalize about people. Do not assume that others speak for a group that you perceive them to represent.
- Use I statements to state your views. For example, I notice that when Im with my friends we pay attention differently is more constructive than When youre with friends you pay attention differently.
- Be careful about how you use humor or irony in class. Keep in mind that we dont all find the same things funny.
- Make an effort to get to know other students. Introduce yourself to students sitting near you. Refer to classmates by name and make eye contact with other students.

## 1 Acknowledgements

The above guidelines are assembled from suggestions presented by the Center for Research on Teaching and Learning at the University of Michigan (<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/generalguidelines>)