American society seems to be getting more polarized and more violent, but teachers—at every level—feel more trepidation than confidence about addressing issues that are even slightly controversial. This workshop empowers teachers to develop strategies that allow them to be proactive rather than reactive, to operate from a clear affirmative stance rather than respond only when a nasty incident forces the issue. Based on Koritha’s expertise regarding how violence functions and the purpose of all forms of violence (from hate speech to physical attacks), this workshop emphasizes philosophical approaches teachers can adopt and offers concrete practices that put theory into motion. Instructors will leave with conceptual frameworks they can use to assess the strategies they are currently using in the classroom, but they will also be able to use the frameworks to develop additional strategies. As important, instructors will leave the session with activities they can immediately take into the classroom.

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