

MIDDIALOGUE CONSTITUTION

Article I Name:
The name of this organization shall be Middialogue.

Article II Purpose:
The purpose of the organization is as follows:

1. To host and moderate monthly forums on various contentious issues around the world and on Middlebury campus using the unique Deliberative Dialogue methodology. Through these engaging community conversations students explore their differences, discover similar beliefs and attitudes, and help integrate the deliberation model of discussion into campus life. Deliberative Dialogues allows for problems to be addressed in their full complexity and specificity. Dialogues are guided by information published in National Issues Forums booklets, research and public opinion surveys conducted by club members on campus, and participant's personal experiences. Club members, in addition to moderating the monthly forums, would design and facilitate a forum that applies specifically to the issues and underlying conflicts at Middlebury College.
2. Provide a safe-space for the members of the Middlebury community in conflict to brainstorm together about how to reconstruct or better their relationship through action commonly supported and uncovered during deliberations. The resulting action would spring spontaneously from the connections and sense of interdependence that is forged by the practice of dialogue.
3. Our ultimate goal for students in this project is for them to emerge as more socially conscious, tolerant, and respectful leaders and participants in the Middlebury community. The dialogues give people who are otherwise unaffected or unexposed to certain conflicts (such as racism or sexism) a context in those issues and a safe place to explore those topics with their peers. Students who do not have a stake in the issues could then better understand the standpoint of those who do to eventually cooperate and resolve latent and obvious conflicts. Students would be encouraged to reevaluate their own assumptions of others, suspend their own beliefs to understand the position of others, and work together toward a common understanding of an issue or problem.

Article III Membership:
Membership is open to all Middlebury College students. Students who participate in Deliberative Dialogue forums are regarded as members. Those students who are trained to facilitate forums are regarded as Deliberative Dialogues Moderators. Students who are officers in the club and therefore have the final decision making authority and perform organizational duties are regarded as Civic Scholars.

Article IV Officers:
Officers must be Middlebury College students. There is either one Coordinator or Co-coordinators whose duties would be that of a president. The Coordinator is responsible for calling meetings, delegating responsibilities, and keeping in contact with CCAL. The Treasurer is the formal liaison between the organization and the SGA Finance Committee. The other Advisory Board Members are responsible for heading the issues framing committee which designs the issue information book for the annual original forum specific to Middlebury College.

- Article V Elections:
The elections will be completed by March 15th. For the election to be legitimate there must be a quorum of 1/2. There must be a 50% majority. Additionally, the elections are conducted with secret ballots.
- Article VI Meetings:
There will be short bi-weekly meetings with moderators to discuss future forum topics, individual moderator progress, and forum logistics. After the moderator meeting, those on the issues framing committee meet to design the issue information packet. Before these bi-weekly meetings, the Civic Scholars hold a meeting to discuss organizational logistics and the next moderator meeting. Deliberative Dialogue forums will be held monthly, and will be continued in the form of Sustained Dialogues. Sustained Dialogues is the continuation of deliberation for specific groups in the form of mini weekly or biweekly forums.
- Article VII Committees:
The only existing committee is the Issue Framing Committee which develops the issue information book for the annual original forum specific to Middlebury College. Their duties include: surveying and interviewing the Middlebury community for views on their decided topic, research the topic and collect factual information, design and print an original issue book, and moderate the forum on this issue. Future Coordinators of the organization may appoint temporary committees as the need arises.
- Article VIII Faculty Advisor:
The membership agrees to maintain an advisor from the faculty or staff, as required.
- Article IX Affiliations:
The Deliberative Dialogues model was designed by the Kettering Foundation- sponsored the National Issues Forum which produces the issue books used to direct the forums. In collaboration with Franklin Pierce College, the Vermont Campus Compact, and funded for three years by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Diversity and Community Project originally brought Deliberative Dialogues to Middlebury College. Deliberative Dialogues maintains their affiliation with the Kettering Foundation, Vermont Campus Compact, and Franklin Pierce College. These organizations provide materials which outline deliberation procedures and moderator training, and hold issue framing conferences.
- Article X Discrimination Policy:
This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by Middialogue.

Article XI

Ratification:

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Article XII

Amendment:

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Approved as to form: February 27, 2006