

# SETTING A FOUNDATION FOR YOUR WORK

## 1. Align to School Mission or Vision Statements

- First, review the big-picture goals of your school or district to find alignment to civil discourse. These provide a shared language and agreed-upon goals from which to begin your planning and preparations.

## 2. Create a Social Studies Vision Statement

- Second, in collaboration with your supervisor and administration, craft a short vision statement for social studies that is aligned to what you've discovered in the school vision or mission statement.

## 3. Set Broad Parameters on Topics

- Third, articulate clear guardrails on how to determine which topics or perspectives are open for examination and which ones are not. Understand the two types of questions—“open” versus “settled”—and how to approach each one.

## 4. Communicate With Parents and Larger Community

- Finally, once you have articulated the vision and the parameters of discourse, it is time to communicate this with the parent community