

# Creating Safe Spaces for Tough Conversations at Work

GoSkills online course syllabus

**Skill level**

Beginner

**Lessons**

22

**Accredited by**

Verified by GoSkills

**Pre-requisites**

No prior experience needed

**Video duration**

54m

**Estimated study time**

55m

**Instructor**

Sterling De Sutter Summerville

## Introduction

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### Encountering tough conversations

The workplace has never been immune to tough conversations, but there's a decorum to make these conversations culture builders rather than culture killers.

## Safe Environments

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### Tough conversations

Navigating tough conversations is an important element of building a cooperative culture.

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### Defining safe spaces

It's important to understand that safety is a relative concept, and safe spaces can be critical to collaboration.

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### Unlocking workspace potential

Safe spaces are growth chambers and unlock your workplace's true potential.

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### Creating a safe space

Creating safe spaces is a process.

## Inclusive Environments

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### The impact of identity

Inclusion is a practice, but it's not always embedded into everyone's experience at the workplace.

## 7 Inclusive environments

For safe spaces to thrive and be situated for success, they should be considered part of a larger environment whose ambition is uninhibited inclusion.

## 8 Building a Foundation for Safe Spaces

For any safe space to succeed it must work within a larger strategic plan for employee well being.

# Accountable Environments

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## 9 Systems of injustice

Injustices and systems of oppressions are a part of the world, and acknowledging this is an important part of creating a safe space.

## 10 Blockers of safe space

Microaggressions, micro-assaults and micro-inequities are blockers to safe space creation.

## 11 Protecting safe spaces

Accountability and cross-functional collaboration contribute a catalyzing effect to the holding of safe spaces.

# Developing Culture

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## 12 Cultural norms

Every culture has its normative behaviors, and it is important that you know what those norms look like in your workplace culture.

## 13 Team building and communication

Effective and open communication is a hallmark of a safe space, and tantamount to successful teamwork.

## 14 Psychological safety

Team members must have confidence that their occupational comfort is not endangered by their participating in dialogues in safe spaces.

# Trust Building Policies

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## 15 Leveraging trainings

Equipping team members with proper trainings on how to intervene against harassment and bullying is a great way to pre-emptively support safe space creation.

- 16** **Organizational expectations**  
Every organization has its behavioral ideals, and being aware of your organizations ideals is incredibly important.
- 17** **Codes of conduct**  
Codes of conduct are only words on paper until you bring them to life with your actions.
- 18** **Ongoing reinforcement**  
Creating safe spaces is only half the battle, and maintaining them is the other half.

## Leadership and Collective Buy-In

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- 19** **Leadership's presence**  
Leadership's active modeling and participation in safe space cultivation can be a one-of-a-kind accelerant to culture change.
- 20** **HR and managerial support**  
Human Resources and management's ability to support during tough conversations is important.
- 21** **It'll take a village**  
Creating a safe space for tough conversations relies on more than just the leadership, HR and management, it is everyone's job.

## Conclusion

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- 22** **Moving forward**  
Thanks for watching this course! Now, you should feel prepared to create safe spaces for tough conversations and serve as an ally in the workplace.

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