

## Hatful of Quotes

Follow the steps below to engage students in the Hatful of Quotes exercise:

1. Review the assigned readings for class and select five or six quotes that are intriguing and thought-provoking and will prompt meaningful discussion.
2. Type out the quotes, and print enough copies so that each student will receive one quote. Multiple students will receive the same quote.
3. Place the quotes in a hat and have each student choose one.
4. Instruct students to read the quote and write down their thoughts about it.
5. After 2 or 3 minutes, have students volunteer to share their quotes and thoughts.
6. Continue until all quotes have been read and all students have participated.

### Benefits of the exercise

- It makes mandated participation as stress free as possible.
- The quotes provide meaningful content to focus the discussion.
- By listening to a variety of voices, students are provided with multiple viewpoints about the content.

### Suggestions for facilitation

- Select quotes that support and uncover the key concepts you want students to address.
- Facilitate the discussion by making connections between student responses and pointing out different opinions.

*"You're giving them something specific to respond to rather than just saying 'What do you think about the reading?' And those who are comfortable speaking typically go first, and they're the ones who will have original thoughts. And those who find it difficult to come up with a response are really helped because several people will already have addressed the quote they have in their hand, so they can wait 'til the end of the exercise, and then they can talk about other students' previous responses to the quote; they don't actually have to talk about the quote itself. So I found that's a good way to get reluctant contributors to be involved in discussion early on. And key to hatful of quotes is it gets participation from everybody."*

(S. D. Brookfield, personal interview, December 2015)