

Creating a Principled Space for Teaching and Learning

As educators we should ensure the following in our teaching practice:

- Non-judgemental environment
- Respect of differences
- Being open to other people's ideas
- Interactive classes
- Ongoing feedback
- Thinking outside the box
- Being organised
- Team work

To achieve the above it is necessary to create principled space. A principled space is one which begins with ground clearing practices. The preference for 'principled' space over 'safe' space draws on the work of artist and activist Hanalei Ramos who has problematised the notion of the safe space. Ramos suggests that principled spaces are better suited to creating the environments we wish to develop: we can commit to adhering to a set of principles that guide and shape the space, and increase the possibility of safety for all involved.

To achieve a principled space we must first establish ground clearing practices

1. Check our privileges
2. Actively listen
3. Actively learn
4. Reflect
5. Action

Online learning spaces require additional practices and ground rules:

1. **Background:** ensure students have been provided with guidance on LSE zoom backgrounds should they wish to not share their personal spaces;
2. **Camera on/off:** having cameras off when students are not speaking will enhance the quality;
3. **Microphone off to avoid background noise:** both having cameras and microphones off unless speaking allows students with hearing difficulties to focus on one speaker or interaction at a time;
4. **Names** displayed and asking students their names is good practice to ensure that you learn correct pronunciations;
5. **How you will communicate and good netiquette:** ensure you inform students of the virtual raising of hands and how the chat function will be used.

Netiquette: defines a set of rules for acceptable online behavior. It is a practice of exercising polite and considerate behavior in online contexts. Netiquette is important as online communication is non-verbal.

Useful Resources:

[Establishing safe learning environments](#)

[Creating social presence in a digital learning environment: a presence of mind](#)

[Addressing whiteness in the classroom](#)

[Freedom of speech and ensuring safety](#)

[Warwick University Netiquette Guidance](#)