Connections, Reflections, and Perspectives: 
Today’s Society
PART 1: PRE –APPLICATION

What is a Common Cause Community (C3)?
These are housing options for students who wish to build community and live with others while exploring a theme or common interest/passion. Residents in C3 areas apply to be part of these unique communities and are offered special programs and opportunities to teach others about their interests, strengths, and passions. Similarly to our Leader-Scholar Communities, C3s allow residents to get to know one another on a deeper level through student-driven programmatic opportunities.

What are the benefits to living in a C3?
C3s are a great opportunity for students to gain great leadership skills, share their knowledge with others, and live with people who hold similar values. C3s are different from other residence halls because they allow students to further explore topics and causes important to them. These communities receive on-going support and programming opportunities from the Area Coordinator of East Quad and a CA of the respective area.

What is the 2017-2018 theme?
The theme for this year’s community is Connections, Reflections and Perspectives: Today’s Society. Throughout the academic year, this community will be responsible for engaging in conversations and discussions on a wide array of topics that affect Brandeis students today. Through programmatic opportunities and initiatives, students living in this community will be responsible for sharing their knowledge with their peers and investing in conversations that will have further implications on the rest of the Brandeis community.

We have made some changes to the program as whole. These include:

- **Location:** We’ve moved the program to East Quad and now designed it for sophomore students.
- **Application Process:** Applicants can now apply as either an individual or with one roommate.
- **Programming Requirements:** Responsibility for hosting a program either as an individual or with your one roommate/others in the CRP community.
STEP 1: CREATE YOUR PROGRAM

The process begins with two decisions: what topics do you want to explore and with whom do you want to live?

Community Size:

- Students must apply as either an individual to live in a single or with one roommate to live in a double. (Each individual will submit an application and have the opportunity to indicate roommate preference on the application.)

Community Member Eligibility:

- **Connections, Reflections, & Perspectives (CRP):** This community is open to students with sophomore housing eligibility. Students will live in singles and doubles on a hall in East Quad.
  
  - Applicants must have indicated their intention to participate in room selection by the February 15th deadline.
  
  - Students who live in the CRP community must attend scheduled meetings and plan and execute your specific program.

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

The most important part of the C3 Process is the application. In this application, each person will be responsible for highlighting a current event that could impact the Brandeis community over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year.

In the application, you will discuss why this topic is important to the Brandeis community, how you plan to create a program/conversation on this topic, and what you hope the lasting impact will be once you have completed it.

As mentioned above, either individually or with someone else in the community, you will take the lead on a program that will be presented to the larger Brandeis community. However, in your application, each applicant will need to explain their own program, so that we can get a sense of each person who will be a part of the community. If you are interested in living in a double, you will indicate who you are interested in living with in the appropriate section on the application (Name of Applicant 2). **Please be sure all names match on each application.** If you are passionate about being a part of this program, it will be up to you to ensure that each individual is taking the application seriously and each is completed thoroughly. This will allow you to hold one another accountable, as each application in the group will need to be strong.
If selected to be a member of CRP, it is our expectation that you attend as many of the CRP programs/events as possible. If you will not be able to attend a program, you will need to complete an additional assignment on/or related to the topic missed. Please note that more than three absences may result in removal from the program.

The beauty of this year’s Common Cause program is that the topics covered will emerge as the year grows, making this community both exciting and constantly-evolving. Therefore, the topic you on speak on in your application doesn’t need to ultimately be the program you end up implementing.

Topics that we believe will generate interest include but are not limited to:

- Racial Justice
- Impacts of the New Presidential Administration
- Climate Change
- Public Health
- Foreign Policy/Foreign Affairs
- Sustainable Living
- Media and Social Activism
- Religious Diversity and Inclusivity
- Gender Equality

Incentives to being a member of this program include but are not limited to:

- Gaining experience in event planning and implementation
- Strengthening of presentation skills
- Sharing expertise with others in meaningful ways
- Strengthening of communication skills
- Obtaining overall knowledge and experience that can be a resume builder

There are three parts of the application:

- Community Information
- Community Exploration
- Community Program

Within each topic, you will have the opportunity to answer questions and tell us your ideas. While we encourage you to think thematically, we also encourage you to be as specific as possible to help frame your ideas clearly.
Community Information

- **Topic:** Briefly explain what your topic will be. Feel free to get creative and think about something interesting that you are passionate about and that fellow Brandeis students would want to learn more about.

- **Area of Focus and Exploration:** The next section asks you to describe your main area of interest. This is your chance to explain your topic in greater detail and think about how this current event will have a particular effect on the Brandeis community over the 2017-2018 academic year.

- **Goals of the Community:** Finally, based on your topic, you will develop some specific goals to be successful. Your goals should focus on what you want to accomplish for your program and what you would like the lasting impact to be.

Community Exploration

- In this section, you will explain what you are going to do or to learn more about your topic. It might include meeting with faculty/staff sponsors, Internet searches, research that you are doing for classes, field trips, or almost any type of investigation. Ultimately, it is essential that you are knowledgeable about your topic, so that you are prepared to speak proficiently on it throughout your application.

- One of the most important parts of CRP is to help other people learn about topics that they might not have thought about previously. In this community, it our hope that all members of the program will be providing various programmatic opportunities to fellow participants, as well as other students in the residential housing area who may be interested.

Community Program

- **Program Summary:** You will have the opportunity to tell us about the program you will be planning for your peers. You should connect everything you have already talked about: your community identity, how you will explore your topic, and how you will educate your peers. Think creatively about the venue in which you will want to hold this program/conversation and how best the message might be best received. The goal of this year’s theme to create awareness on a topic of interest in current events during the 2017-2018 academic year. There will be an opportunity to request funding for your program. These requests will need to be submitted and approved prior to your program. (Please note: we will work with all participants to understand the resources that exist without needing to resort to excessive spending.)
Applications must be completed via online form no later than **Friday, March 3rd, 2017 at 5pm**. Applications received after this time may not be considered. Each application is reviewed by members of the Department of Community Living

Below is the criteria upon which we will review applications:

- **Excellent** - Strong, thoughtful, and persuasive responses including a detailed plan for program implementation. Only minor possibilities for improvement; demonstrates major commitment to topic and to purpose of highlighting a current event that will have a particular effect on the Brandeis community.

- **Good** - Solid work. Many strong responses, but some areas require further exploration and organization. Application demonstrates an understanding of the topic and purpose of the program.

- **Average** - Some good ideas, but responses are general and simplistic. Overall the application demonstrates only a surface commitment to topic and purpose of the program.

- **Below Average** - Less than sufficient work. Many concepts are present, but underdeveloped. More time needed to expand on topic and shows understanding of the program.

- **Inadequate** - Most areas display minimal understanding; failure to develop topic past opening statements. Application shows an extreme lack of commitment to the chosen topic and the purpose of the program.

Each section of the application is evaluated using the above criteria. The overall impression of the application is also evaluated. The following are the specific criteria:

- **Community Information Section**: Demonstrated knowledge of topic

- **Community Exploration Section**: Identification and use of resources, commitment to learning process, connection to on campus resources

- **Community Programming Section**: Creativity of programming ideas, coherency/connectedness of ideas, probability of implementing programming ideas

- **General Consideration**: Thoughtful, persuasive, and complete presentation of ideas, mechanics (organization, grammar, spelling, visual presentation)
STEP 4: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The CRP program is designed to balance multiple interests that focus not just on academics, but also on community participation. *Therefore, the Department of Community Living reserves the right to adjust this process as necessary.*

*The following issues may be considered before the CRP finalists are announced:*

- **Topic Balance:** As part of the overall experience, it is important to have a variety of interests and topics presented. In order to ensure that not all communities are focused on the same general topic during the final selection, the Department of Community Living will ensure that topical balance is achieved as well.

- **Conduct History:** The CRP is designed for sophomore students who have excelled in many aspects of college life. Students currently suspended from housing or the University are not eligible for inclusion in the process. Additionally, a student’s previous conduct history will be considered in the application selection process.

STEP 5: FINAL DETERMINATION

The Department of Community Living will determine the finalists for the program. All applicants will be notified of their status following the completion of the application review process. The final page of this guide has a detail of the dates for your information.

Applicants that were not accepted into the program will be notified and will remain part of the housing selection process and they will be issued a housing selection number in time for regular room selection.
PART 3: ROOM SELECTION & CONFIRMATION

STEP 6: PAPER WORK

To continue in the CRP Process:

✓ All students must have elected to participate in room selection by the deadline of February 15th.
✓ Finalists will be notified by March 9th, 2017 via e-mail.
✓ Each member must confirm their acceptance by March 10th, 2017 at 12pm via online form.
   ○ Again, failure of ALL community members to complete this acceptance will result in removal of the entire community from the selection process!

STEP 7: ROOM SELECTION

Once accepted, students will be notified of the room selection process. We will use the housing selection numbers from the room selection process to decide who chooses their housing assignments first. The person with the lowest housing selection number will select first and so on. Failure to participate in room selection at their designated time can jeopardize placement in the program.

Withdrawals and Additions
It is possible that a student’s interest in living in the program may change before the room selection. We will allow students to try to maintain their communities with students of their choice up to a certain deadline.

To withdraw from the process, a student needs to meet with Scott Berozi, Assistant Director First Year Programs and Orientation. To add a student to a vacated space, the remaining person in the original community must agree and e-mail Scott Berozi.

Students being added to the process must have indicated interest in living on campus and must complete the housing selection application by the above deadline.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the entire process or if you have specific questions, please contact the Assistant Director for First Year Programs and Orientation:
Scott Berozi
781-736-5060
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IMPORTANT DATES

February 11, 2017  CRP Applications and Information Guide Available via Email

February 15, 2017  Room Selection application due via MyHousing

March 3, 2017 by 5pm  CRP Applications due via online form

March 9, 2017  Finalists announced through campus e-mail

March 10, 2017 by 12pm  CRP acceptances due via Qualtrics form

March 10, 2017  All applicants notified about their application status

March 15, 2017  Room Selection Numbers sent out by 5pm

TBA  CRP Room Selection

TBA  CRP Welcome Reception