# Critical Conversations

[Critical Conversations](https://www.brandeis.edu/arts-sciences/core/critical-conversations/index.html) are a central part of the [Brandeis Core](https://www.brandeis.edu/arts-sciences/core/index.html) for First-Year students. They are designed to introduce students to Brandeis’ intellectual and scholarly discourse and the variety of disciplinary ways in which our faculty engage with the world and each other. CCs are intended to foster a sense of community around academic inquiry and demonstrate to new students the advantages of participating in the co-curricular life of the university.

Each CC features two or more faculty, usually from different disciplines, and a faculty moderator who intervenes in the discussion to indicate rhetorical arguments and different disciplinary perspectives. Our class is attending:

## [The Name of the Critical Conversation]

### [Date], [Time], [Location]

* [Paste here the paragraph-length description of the Critical Conversation]
* [Paste here the Participant Names, Titles, and Departments]
* For those who cannot attend the live event, it will be recorded and made available online as a streaming video as soon as possible afterward.

## Assignment

[Example 1: “Write a response to the conversation on LATTE and we will discuss it in class. How do concepts of community vary among the disciplines, including various academic approaches to [course theme]?”]

[Example 2: “Please contemplate your experience attending this scholarly conversation on “[title/theme of CC]” by writing an approximately one-page, double spaced reflection and uploading it as a Word doc to LATTE.”]

In your reflection, you might also consider some or all of the following questions:

1. What techniques did the speakers use to convince you of their argument?
2. What was effective? What was less effective?
3. How did faculty from different disciplines approach the topic differently?
4. How did the speakers handle scholarly disagreements?
5. How might you use some of the argumentation techniques in your own writing, specifically your research paper?

[Example 1: “Reflections are due by **[insert due date]** in the Critical Conversations Forum on LATTE. Read and comment on some of your classmates’ posts. We will discuss the Critical Conversation in class.”]

[Example 2: “**Due Date: [date] by [time] on LATTE**”]