



# Working Together: Sensitive Situations

FLEX Day - September 27, 2016


1:30 PM - 3:20 PM

Room 2470

Organized by Howard Blumenfeld, Steve Chiolis,  
Marty Nash, and Marsha Vernoga



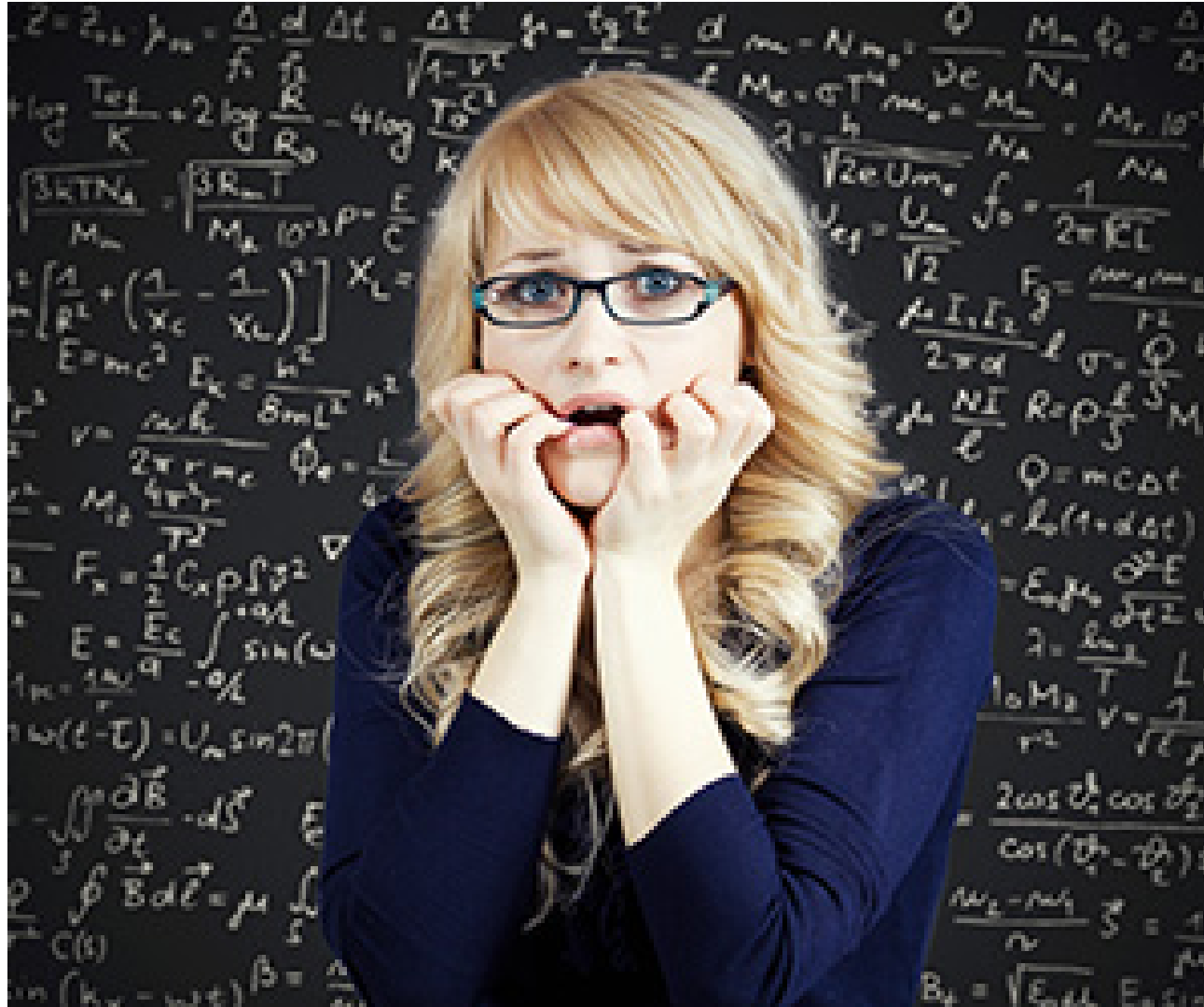
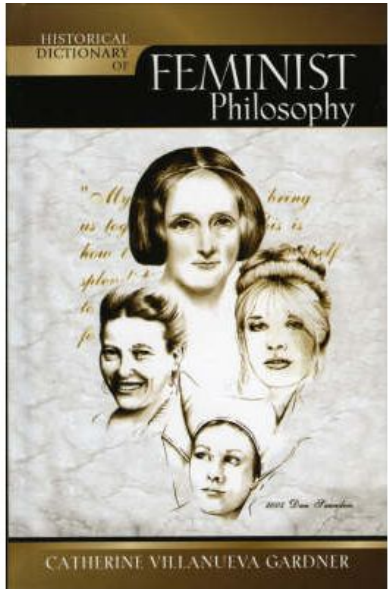
May there be  
such a oneness between us  
that when one weeps the  
other tastes salt.

A photograph of a man in a dynamic, athletic pose, possibly a dancer or performer, against a background of intense orange and yellow flames. He is shirtless and wearing dark pants, with his arms extended and legs in a wide, powerful stance.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

© "A Touch of Inspiration" from Heather O'Hara | [www.QuantumGrace.net](http://www.QuantumGrace.net)

# Our Own Sensitive Situations



# The Math Department Roundtable (Howard Blumenfeld)





# The Math Department Roundtable (Howard Blumenfeld)

- Meetings, meetings, meetings
- Arguments and hurt feelings
- The silent ones
- Everyone must have a voice



Each of you will have two minutes to answer the following questions:

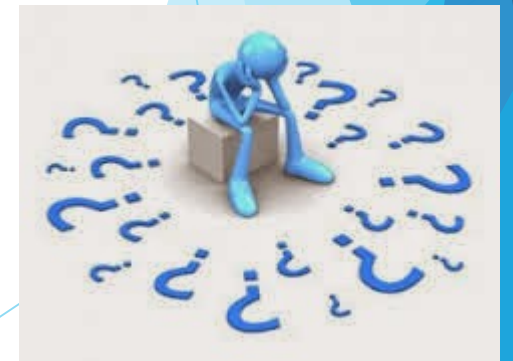
- 1) What is your vision for the future of this department?
- 2) Where do you see yourself fitting into this vision and what would you like to contribute to it?

# The Power of the Anecdote: A Student in Need (Marty Nash)

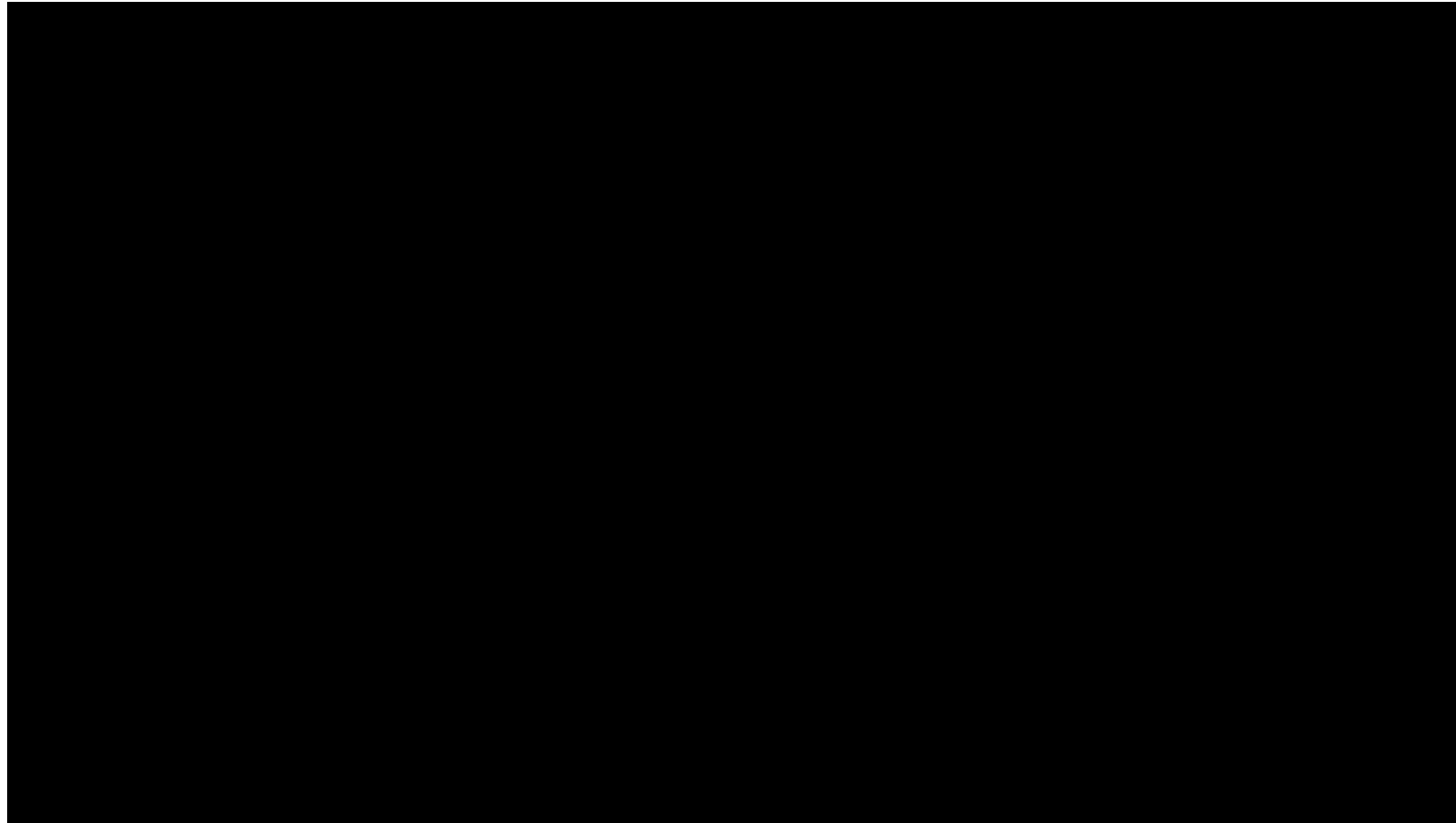


# The Power of the Anecdote: A Student in Need (Marty Nash)

- The unexpected: "I have no expertise in this."
- Do something, now: How an anecdote gave direction
- A simple conversation and story
- The follow-up: Little things make a difference



# The Psychic Sounds of Silence: Why Must We Always Be Talking?



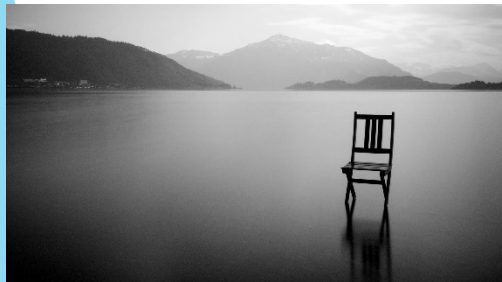


# The Psychic Sounds of Silence: Why Must We Always Be Talking?

- Silence Is Not an Educational Abyss
- A Space for Speech and Silence
- Staying in the Sensitive Space & Welcoming Silence
- Misinterpreting Silence



"Silence gives us a chance to reflect on what we have said and heard, and silence itself can be a sort of speech, emerging from the deepest parts of ourselves, of others, of the world"  
--Parker J. Palmer, The Courage to Teach (77).



# Dealing with Difficult People



# Taking the Bull by the Horns.

- Unrequited request
- How can someone avoid so much?
- Lesson: I create my own angst and suffering. Learning to react.



# *Your Sensitive Situations*



## ▶ Group breakout session facilitators:

- Marty Nash & Marsha Vernoga
- Howard Blumenfeld & Steve Chiolis





# Questions to answer in groups

- What is one of your most personally frustrating experiences you have had to deal with in this profession?
- Describe your experience teaching a sensitive topic or leading a sensitive discussion in the classroom.
- How can we best support our colleagues who are going through their own sensitive situations?



# Other Sensitive Situations



- ▶ We are going to show four video clips. Can you relate?



# Grading Controversies



# Teaching Controversial Topics





# Dealing with Disruptive Students



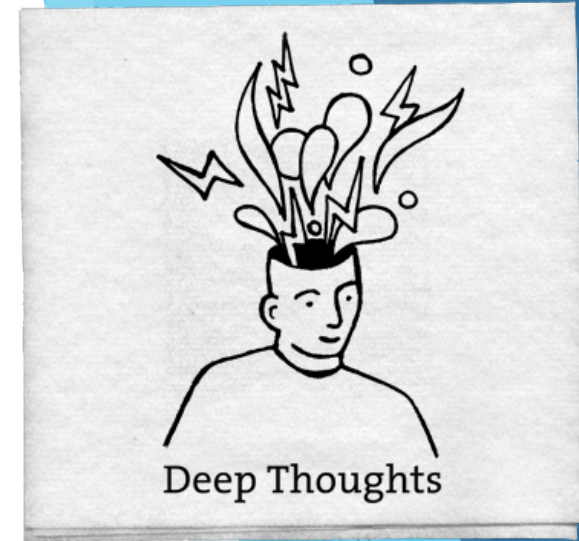
Every kid needs a champion



## Pair Share



- ▶ What video did you resonate most with and why? What video surprised you the most?
- ▶ How did you feel about the information presented in the videos?
- ▶ How may these videos be applicable to your life either personally or professionally?



# Where do we go from here?



- ▶ Monthly small group conversations or campus activities
- ▶ Next “Working Together” conversations will be held on Monday, October 24 (3:30-5) and Wednesday, October 26 (2:30-4)
- ▶ Details will be emailed out to the campus