Tool and Resource Evaluation Criteria

Heterodox Academy has a library of initiatives, policies, programs, and other innovations that have been deployed in classrooms, on campuses, and in disciplines to support open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement. We want to hear practical strategies, tools, and resources that have worked for you, and that others can readily adapt and implement in their own institutions. These can range from entire courses to syllabi, reading lists, and research. Submissions will be assessed using the criteria below.

Tools are materials that empower educators, administrators, students, and others to understand, assess, or act on issues in their local context. They are devices designed for a specific function that lower the activation threshold to encourage others to take action.

Assessment Categories for Tools:

- The tool demonstrates support of and commitment to the HxA mission and aligns with the "HxA Way."
- The tool encourages open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and/or constructive disagreement. This could be through direct interaction with others or through individualized assignments, assessments, etc.; for example, by taking up the position or perspective of someone with an opposing viewpoint.
- The tool is accessible, as in free or low cost.
- Generally speaking, the tool encourages dialogue in one-to-one or group interactions.
- The tool aims to achieve a specific outcome or goal. This goal is clearly stated.
- The tool is easily understandable; none or limited additional research is needed to grasp the concepts involved.
- The tool is easily usable; none or limited additional work or materials are needed to use it.
- The tool is adaptable; it can be altered to fit diverse situations, contexts, and needs. (For example, while our book discussion guides were designed with the undergraduate classroom in mind, they can be used to facilitate conversations in a variety of settings)
- The tool was developed based on firsthand experience and/or experimentation. The person submitting the tool should be able to describe the process of developing it and why certain decisions were made.
- The tool has been proven to work, either through adoption by others, successful use by others, and/or empirical validation.

Resources are mission-relevant materials that educate, inform, and encourage people to want to learn more. They are more conceptual and less applied than tools.

Assessment Categories for Resources:
- The resource demonstrates support of and commitment to the HxA mission and aligns with the "HxA Way."
- The resource educates and informs people about the issues of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in K-12 and/or higher education.
- The resource is accessible, as in free or low cost.
- The resource is easily understandable; none or limited additional research is needed to grasp the concepts involved.
- The resource is easily usable; none or limited additional work or materials are needed to utilize it.
- The resource is adaptable; it can be applied to diverse situations, contexts, and needs. (For example, a resource intended for a higher education audience can also be used in a high school classroom.)
- The resource was developed based on firsthand experience and/or experimentation. The person submitting the resource should be able to describe the process of developing it and why certain decisions were made.
- The individual or organization submitting the resource are supportive of HxA's mission and do not raise concern for reputational risk. Specific attention will be paid to submissions made by individuals or groups with public political leanings.