Example of Starting Covenant

This course deals with some difficult topics that will hit close to home for many of you. We need to work together to make this classroom a productive space for learning.

We are all to begin by assuming the best intent of everyone. Intent, however, does not predict impact. We can have the best intentions and still upset others, unfortunately.

We want to take some time to think about how we can be good, supportive, and open-minded classroom citizens. To help us do this, we will work together to develop a covenant: a commitment about agreed upon behaviors that we will abide. We will all be bound by the covenant.

A covenant helps set the tone for the semester, be mindful of our behavior, and manage difficult situations should these arise. Anyone at any time can draw attention to an item on the covenant to remind us of expected behavior.

Below is a "starting covenant" as a beginning point, put together over the years based on what students have suggested. The items can be modified, removed, and new ones added.

Once everyone has posted their feedback, I will revise the covenant accordingly and you will have an opportunity to make additional revisions. You will have a window of time in which to make changes--if you do not request changes, we will assume you agree to abide the items on the covenant.

StartingCovenant

Example Instructions for Online Class

*These instructions can be easily modified for an in-person class, where students are asked to prepare this work for a class discussion.

Assignment Details:
- x This work is worth 1% of your final grade and will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis. A complete is a grade of "A", full points: the work must be done well, following all directives to earn a complete.

Do <u>one</u> of the following:
1. Create one additional item to add to this covenant—use the format on the working covenant to guide you: start with a clear behavior, then explain its relevance

   - x Make sure it is not already covered in one of the items listed

   - x Make sure it has not already been suggested by a peer--if it has, add your new insight to what they have said.

   - x Make su