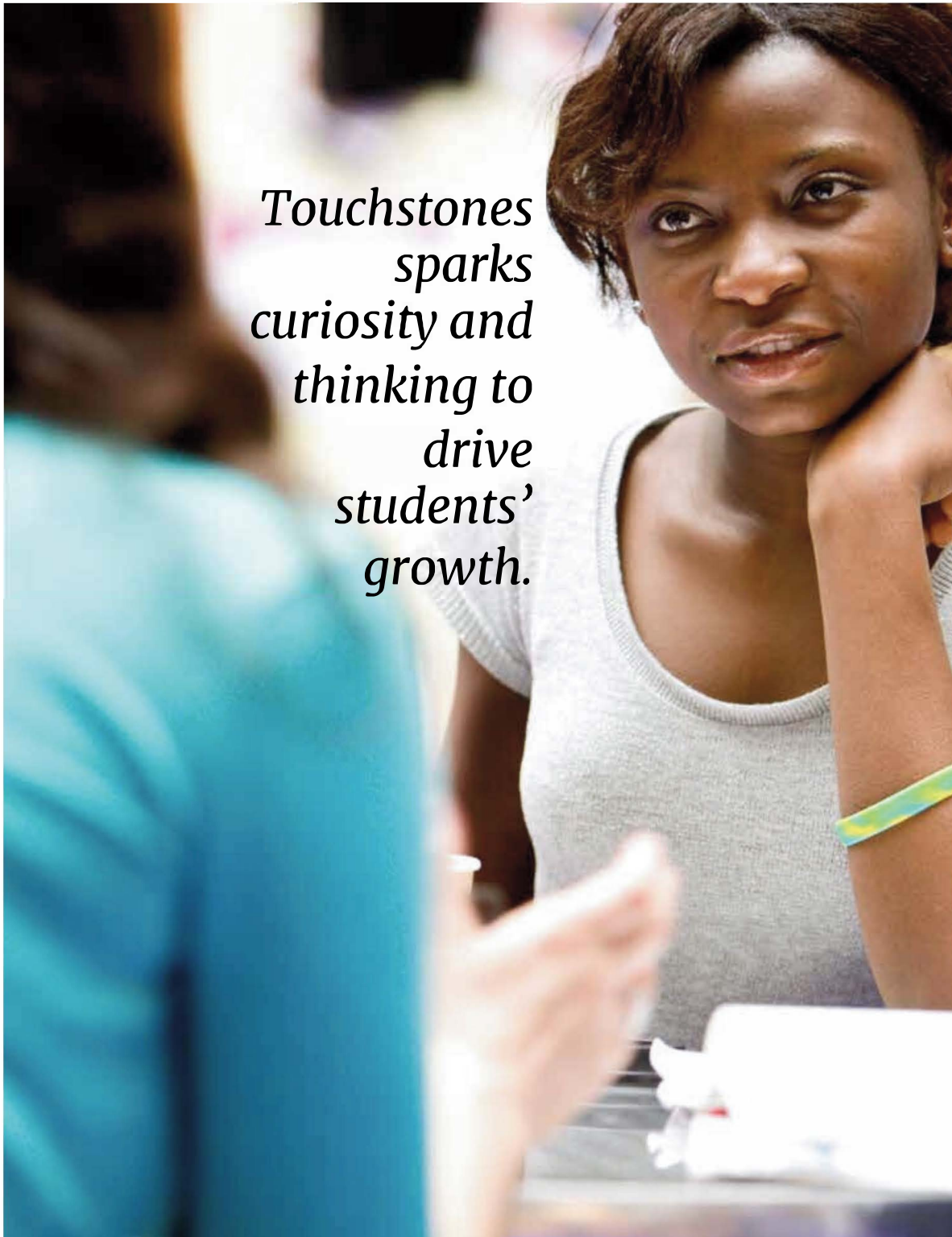




**Touchstones®**  
Discussion Project

*Touchstones  
sparks  
curiosity and  
thinking to  
drive  
students'  
growth.*



# Program Catalog



**Touchstones®** is a non-profit on a mission to build a more inclusive world, one discussion at a time. Collaborative learning requires different skills than learning as an individual. With Touchstones, these skills are explicitly addressed and intentionally built. In our discussion programs, every student has an equal right to speak and learn and an equal responsibility to listen and make room for others. Touchstones democratizes education to prepare your students for academic success and civic engagement in an ever-changing world.

### Touchstones Essential Skills



Speaking



Cooperative  
Learning



Confidence



Active  
Listening



Collaboration



Leadership

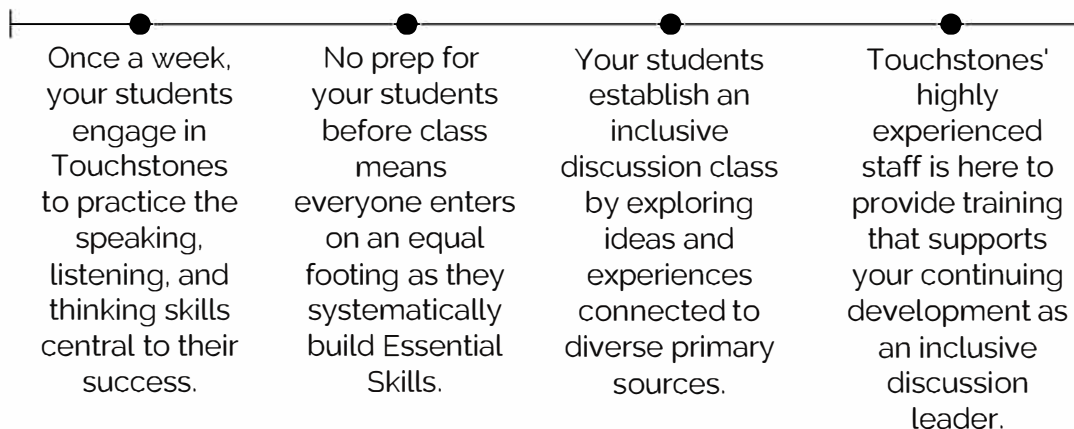



Analytical  
Reasoning



Reflective  
Thinking

### How Touchstones Works



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a green button-down shirt, is seated and looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. She is holding a clipboard in her left hand and a pen in her right hand. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a classroom or meeting room.

*“During Touchstones they (students) felt listened to, cared about, and respectful of both teachers and peers. They were eager to participate. As one student said, ‘The best part is the sense of achievement. You get to say something that’s coming from inside of you!’”*

*—Education researcher, University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education*





*"I love Touchstones because it's helped my student veterans gain important listening skills and provided them with an opportunity to discuss their experiences with other veterans, military-affiliated students, and civilians. I also love Touchstones for the sense of community and belonging it gives."*

*-Nathan Slife, Ph.D., Professor-in-Residence, Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education, UNLV*

Photograph credit: Becca Schwartz UNLV

“

**"Touchstones is a methodology that trains students to participate meaningfully, confidently, and cooperatively."**

Professor Marsha Bronstein,  
Learning Communities Coordinator,  
Montgomery College

”

# Touchstones Professional Development

Since 1984, we've trained tens of thousands of educators, and participants consistently rate Touchstones workshops as some of the best training they've had! Our highly experienced facilitators are here to help you prepare for success with Touchstones. Whether you are an individual instructor interested in using Touchstones in your classroom, a college administrator looking to implement Touchstones more widely, or a researcher in higher education, we offer a variety of training options to support your working knowledge as a Touchstones discussion leader.

“

**"Touchstones helps me to create a truly interactive community of learners, and to show future teachers how to do this in their classrooms someday."**

A. Starkey, Towson University, Towson, MD

”

## Workshops

Touchstones offers regularly scheduled virtual and in-person workshops throughout the year, open to any educator. Three levels of training help you work toward a Certificate in Discussion Leadership.

## Coaching

Get personalized support for you or your colleagues with individual coaching. Educators identify their goals and Touchstones staff engage in an observation and feedback cycle to support growth.

## Custom Training

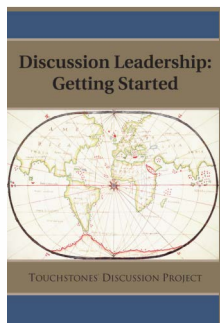
We offer in-service workshops and professional development to support entire faculties and staff in successfully implementing Touchstones. Each workshop is tailored to your unique needs and goals.

Cost: Reach out to us for a quote  
Location: In-person and virtual  
Register on our website

Cost: Reach out to us for a quote  
Location: In-person and virtual

Cost: Reach out to us for a quote  
Location: In-person and virtual

## Getting Started with Touchstones



### Discussion Leadership: Getting Started

Discussion Leadership: Getting Started covers all aspects of the Touchstones method, including individual and small group work, questioning techniques, discussion dynamics, and common behavioral problems. Its practical advice helps new discussion leaders get started and enhances the established skills of experienced leaders.

\$30.00  
Also available in French



### Touchstones Two-Poster Set

This two-poster set reminds your students of the Touchstones Ground Rules and helps them to understand the different leadership roles they will assume in small groups.

\$35 for both posters

# Higher Education Volumes

Touchstones supports you to systematically establish a classroom culture of respect in partnership with your students. In Touchstones discussions, your students learn to teach themselves and others, collaborate with all classmates, gain greater awareness of their assumptions, and ultimately share power and responsibility for group dynamics.

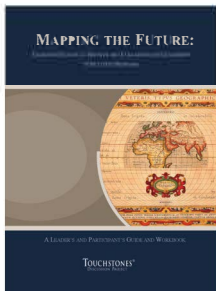
Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom and can be purchased on a subscription basis by individual students or as a class with a minimum of 10 student licenses. We can also partner with your college or university bookstore to make print version available to students directly. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or [highered@touchstones.org](mailto:highered@touchstones.org) to discuss the best approach for your needs.

*“Touchstones helps bring me out of my shell. It gives quieter students like me the opportunity to speak up and voice my ideas.”*

*—UNLV first-year seminar student 2024*





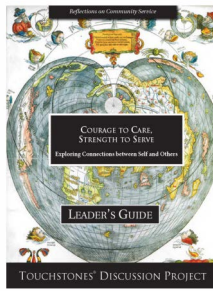


### Mapping the Future: Charting Individual Growth and Collaborative Leadership

Designed to enhance students' reflective thinking, analytical reasoning, civil discourse, and discussion leadership skills, this 12-meeting course provides guided practice that culminates with student-led seminars. This program emphasizes self-reflection as a tool for lifelong growth, analytical and synthetic reasoning, teamwork, and applications of collaboration in responsive, creative leadership.

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Leader's and Participant's  
Guide and workbook: \$50  
Not available in digital format



### Courage to Care: Exploring Connection between Self and Others

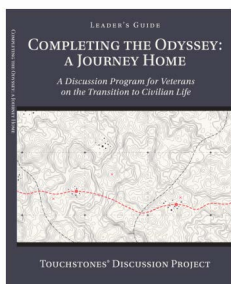
This semester-long course introduces students to the practice of collaborative discussion and the benefits of shared inquiry for building connections and community. This program emphasizes the role of listening to understand, self-awareness as a tool for growth, and the ways in which our thinking is shaped and reshaped through intellectual interactions and investigations.

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Leaders Guide: \$65  
Participant Guide: \$40  
Not available in digital format

*"After reflecting on how much I have grown this semester, I've concluded that Touchstones discussions have been among the most impactful in shaping my views and mindset this year. The open-mindedness and social skills fostered through this activity have been monumental in improving my ability to communicate with others. I love what I have gained through Touchstones discussions."*

—UNLV second-year seminar student 2024

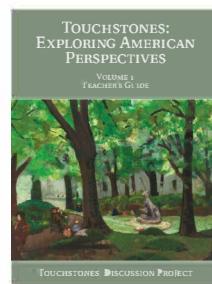


### Completing the Odyssey: A Journey Home

In this discussion leadership program, veterans learn to co-lead discussions on themes related to service and homecoming. Participants in this program explore selections from Homer's *The Odyssey* and from contemporary work— including many by veterans— about service and war to reflect on their own experiences and journeys.

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Leaders Guide: \$25  
Participant Guide: \$50  
Not available in digital format

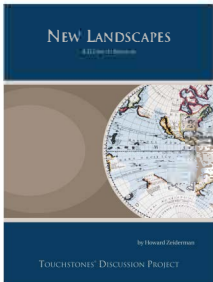


### Exploring American Perspectives

The first volume of this series features selections from W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, Lois Mailou Jones, and other Black writers, philosophers, poets, and visual artists. These diverse texts serve as tools for students' shared exploration of uniquely American perspectives. Each of the 22 lessons fosters and enhances problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership through direct practice.

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Teacher Guide: \$75  
Student Guide: \$50  
Digital: \$35 per student

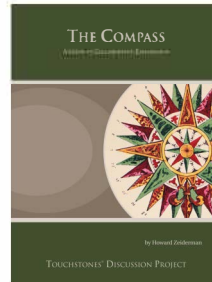


### New Landscapes

The longer selections in New Landscapes encourage students to reflect on the foundations of their basic attitudes and assumptions. Students use the texts to delve into their presuppositions and examine sources of their own knowledge, engaging creatively and effectively as leaders. New Landscapes helps upper level undergraduates and college faculty alike to develop seminar leadership skills.

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Leader's Guide: \$75  
Participant Guide: \$75  
Not available in digital format



### The Compass

The Compass is the most flexible Touchstones volume designed for college seminar courses. It is, therefore, a useful tool for Bridge and FYE programs. Students using The Compass build essential communication and thinking skills, collectively map strategies for continuous improvement, and form a community of learners characterized by trust and respect. No advanced preparation is initially required by students, though students prepare for and lead later discussions.

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Student Edition: \$75  
Not available in digital format

# Touchstones in Higher Education

Touchstones® discussion programs teach all students to explore their own ideas, dreams, and goals while connecting authentically with their peers. They practice skills of civil discourse, active listening, analytical reasoning, and collaborative leadership, as they explore diverse ideas and viewpoints. Wherever your students are on their journey in higher education, Touchstones will help them to build a community in which every voice is heard and valued. These are tools for life.

Learn more on our website about how Touchstones supports your teaching and learning.



**Touchstones®**  
Discussion Project

[highered@touchstones.org](mailto:highered@touchstones.org) | [touchstones.org](http://touchstones.org) | 410-604-3309

