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Section Introduction: Basic Course Forum

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The Basic Course Forum

This feature is designed to invite scholars and basic course practitioners to propose and debate specific key questions of concern related to the basic course. The Basic Course Forum in Volume 35 has at its foundation the book *Inclusive Public Speaking: Communicating in a Diverse World* (Fountainhead Press, 2020), by Kristina Ruiz-Mesa and Melissa Broeckelman-Post.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) has become critically important in higher education, and many of those skills for our students may begin in foundational communication courses. Forum authors were asked to tackle subjects related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, addressing questions such as: What approaches to teaching the basic course can be revised to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and how? What role do course directors and administrators play in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts? How do we best prepare our graduate teaching assistants to thrive in courses framed by DEI? How do we address identity similarities and differences and unique experiences to improve communication skill development? How do we assess DEI efforts in our basic communication courses?

