

UNIT 12

Move Beyond Bystander

We are witnessing both an increase in public eruptions of discord, and equally, we're at a powerful moment of social transformation. To take a proactive approach means to meet the moment we are in with awareness: to question with courage and act with integrity.



TOOL 1

Fumble Forward

Perhaps you are unsure of the terminologies needed to join a conversation. Perhaps you are unsure if your questions will offend someone or reveal your lack of knowledge. Perhaps you haven't fully formulated your ideas and opinions yet or feel like you don't quite know how to say something.

Invite all in the conversation to create a mutual agreement for intellectual humility and mutual exploration. Donna Mejia's practice called Fumble Forward can help:

1. Select a group of friends, family, or classmates with whom you are connected.



2. Explain that the idea of this tool is to practice intellectual humility and mutual exploration and that you would like to enter into a social agreement/contract together as a community.

Before speaking, say,
"I am about to fumble with words."

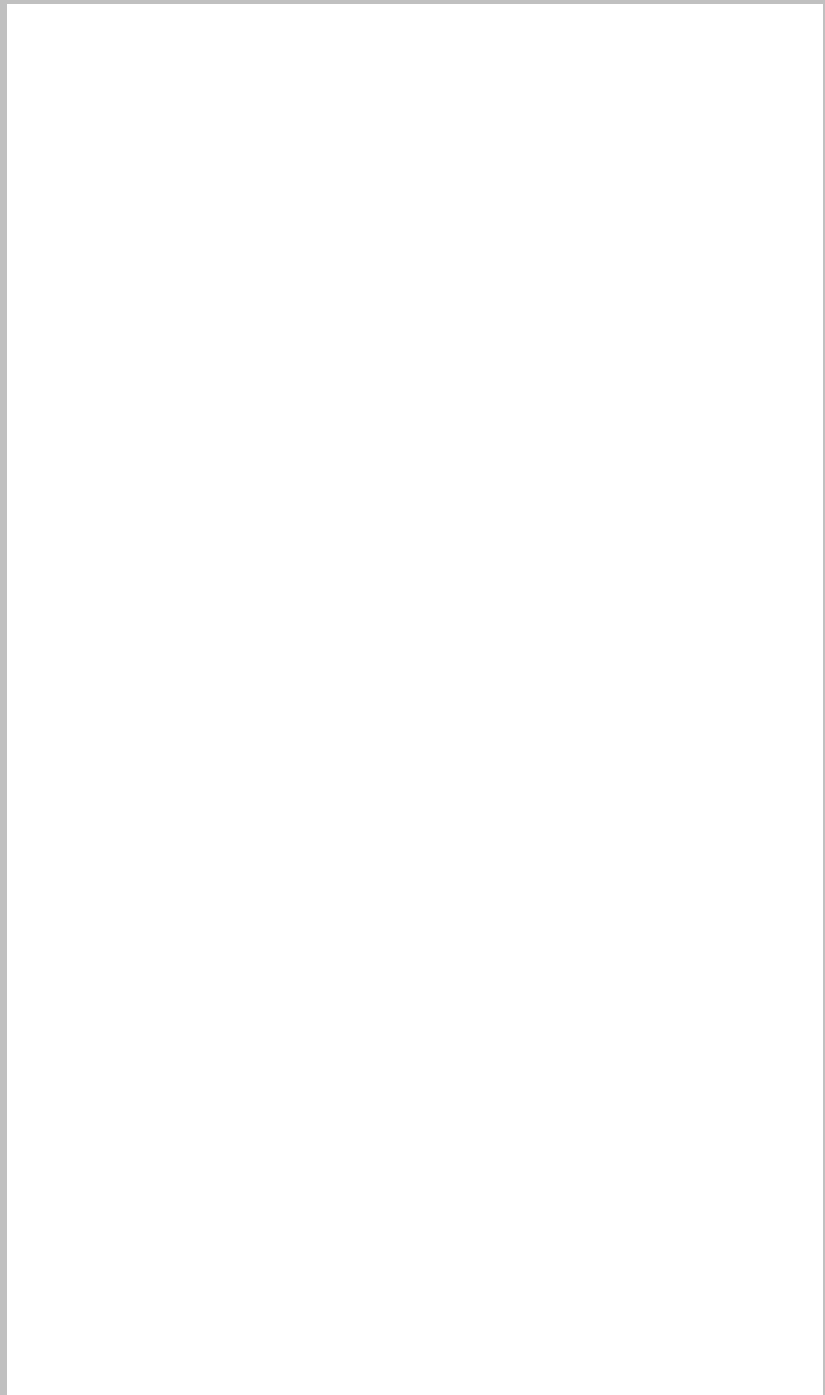
The community responds as a chorus with, "Fumble Forward!"

This is a social agreement/contract to let confusion be a vital part of discourse.

For the next few minutes, all have agreed to suspend judgement, lean in and help each other clarify through a process of corrective, delicate, or clumsy verbal surgery.

Fumble Forward allows people to stay open and speak from the heart with diplomacy, even if their voices are trembling and they can't find content, stable ground. Fumble Forward gives all a starting place to back away from sounding on each other.

We can diplomatically move towards true listening and communication.



Which of the Move Beyond Bystander tools did you use this week? How did it go?

Did you notice any challenges when practicing with the Move Beyond Bystander Tools