

## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE EVENTS: THE ISSUES RAISED BY HILLTV

As we strive to make the writing instruction that happens in our classrooms and studios socially and culturally relevant, political, and conscious, the recent HillTV controversy has created a rhetorical situation that has implications for our classrooms and the larger SU community. Here is an opportunity for us to develop heuristics and pedagogical tools that we can use to take up these issues—racism, homophobia, sexism, misogyny, and other acts of violence—in our classrooms.

As we work toward incorporating the redefined learning outcomes into our individual curriculums, it is important that we remain vigilant in our efforts to challenge and then dismantle systematic and systemic institutional structures that give tacit, although not explicit, approval of divisive attitudes and discriminatory practices. This means understanding the stance we take in the classroom, as we facilitate conversations and make it ‘safer’ for people to speak, especially those most often silenced by dominant discourses.

To that end, the Diversity Committee invites the Writing Program to planning sessions on Monday, October 24, at 1 pm and Tuesday, October 25 at 2 pm to be held in HBC 239.

We recognize that emotions are running high, and folks need to talk through these complex issues. We imagine our time together to be goal-oriented. In other words, at the end of the two-day planning sessions, we would like to have a product or an artifact—a way to tangibly represent our response to these incidents. We’ve done enough talking: let’s do something.