

## UL-VMNH POD GUIDELINES

1. Listen actively -- respect others when they are talking.
2. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," "you").
3. Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas and problems rather than people.
4. Participate to the fullest of your ability -- community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
5. Instead of invalidating somebody else's story with your own spin on their experience, share your own story and experience.
6. The goal is not to always agree -- it is to gain a deeper understanding.
7. Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses -- they can be as disrespectful as words (even over Zoom!)
8. Assume everyone's good intentions but also acknowledge the impact of saying something that hurts someone else, even if it is unintended.
9. Maintain confidentiality. All stories shared in this space stay in this space unless explicit permission is given by the person sharing the story that it can be shared in another setting.
10. Don't assume information about an individual's background or experiences.
11. Don't ask for an individual to speak as a representative of a larger group to which they belong.
12. A bit of cursing is acceptable.
13. Decisions will be made as a group, with majority rules when needed.
14. Each member of the pod will chose two weeks to be the leader of discussions and in charge of deliverables. The pod leader will submit all work.
15. Members will let the pod leader know when meeting attendance is not possible, as able.