

Youth Round Table Discussion – Notes

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Four problems:

1. Staying connected with Hindu Dharma throughout college
 - a. Explain Hindu rituals in a simple, straightforward, and compelling format (e.g. Hawaii Pandit)
 - b. Connect Hindu Dharma with other causes (environmental, social justice, seva, LGBTQ+) by drawing parallels between being Hindu and supporting these causes
2. Intertwining Hindu education with festivals
 - a. Acknowledge Hindu roots during the festival
 - i. Visually (ex. For Diwali, put up a series of pictures that depict Ramayana)
 - ii. Start with short *prarthana* or puja
 - b. Connect students who want to learn more with appropriate resources
 - i. Send emails before the event explaining its roots
 - ii. Link to websites (poss. CHY, HSC, HAF, etc.) that explain how to conduct puja, its symbolism, festival traditions in different parts of India, etc.
3. Changing perception of Hindu Dharma to be helpful and also “cool”
 - a. Correct misconceptions of Hindu Dharma (“caste system”; “anti-feminist”; “polytheistic”; etc)
 - b. Provide resources that explain basics of Hinduism (karma, dharma, etc) and Hindu frameworks
4. Providing mentorship and support networks for Hindu youth
 - a. Create peer mentorship programs where each student has both an older mentor and a younger mentee (like Big Brothers/Big Sisters or “big”/“little” roles in Greek life)
 - b. Provide access to chaplaincy services/ religious counseling services for help from trained adults