

EMBRACE
RECONSIDER
AVOID

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Models of Inequality</u></p>	<p>Barrier</p> <p><i>"We have a political system whose agenda has been to <u>pave the way</u> for lots of accumulation of wealth and income among the very few, and <u>set in place obstacles</u> for the rest of the population to <u>move up or let alone stay in place</u>"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Assumes all people are equally capable and deserving +Indicates inequality comes from structures in place; it's manmade, not natural +Suggests a role for audience: breaking down the barrier 	<p>Vertigo/Internal Imbalance</p> <p><i>"An economy that has gotten <u>off-kilter</u>"</i> <i>"Excessive inequality leads to <u>instability</u>"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Conveys interdependence—economy is a single, unified thing +Implies the economic system can be externally influenced +Tangible and experiential, people have felt dizziness
<p>Injustice</p> <p><i>"This isn't <u>fair</u>"</i> <i>"If we want to live in a <u>just society</u> we cannot continue to subsidize the rich by exploiting the poor"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Appeals to values of fairness and justice - Isn't actually a simplifying model; doesn't explain what inequality <i>is</i> - Conveys very little to a broad audience, basically progressive in-group speak 	<p>Concentration</p> <p><i>"Income and wealth <u>concentration</u>"</i> <i>"Inequality is the mal <u>distribution</u> of income and wealth"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Offers a reasonable tone, makes arguments seem mainstream -Inequality has its own driving force, not man-made -Silent about the causes of inequality, strongly outcome-focused 	<p>Distortion</p> <p><i>"They <u>rig</u> the machine"</i> <i>"<u>Crafting</u> rules for the economy that <u>reinforce inequality</u> throughout the system"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Inequality is an outcome of bad decision-making by policy makers +Economy as a machine with people causing inequality through how they operate machine -Not a clear simplifying model – doesn't relate inequality to something tangible
<p>Vertical</p> <p><i>"Bring down the <u>top</u>, lift up the <u>bottom</u>; move from <u>one rung</u> to another"</i> <i>"My family was poor... it was the ignorance that allowed lots of people to have <u>power over us</u>"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Reinforces idea of common fate; economy as a container -Implies poor are inherently inferior -Favorite of conservatives—introduces hierarchy and moral superiority / deservedness 	<p>Horizontal</p> <p><i>"<u>Gap</u> between rich and poor; <u>bridge</u> economic divide"</i> <i>"Our nation and planet are <u>pulling apart</u> economically"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Very tangible, easy model to understand and visualize -Gaps are about end-states—suggests no reason for why we arrived at this outcome -Offers no role for audience -Implies two separate and therefore separable economies (separate fates) 	<p>Scale/Imbalance</p> <p><i>"<u>Tilted</u> so far <u>in favor of so few</u>"</i> <i>"Fairer policies would help <u>balance the economic burdens</u> among all of us, rather than <u>piling them onto people of color, the poor</u>"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Profiles interconnection; process of direct cause and effect -When one side goes up, the other goes down -Triggers zero-sum thinking and thus desire to keep status quo
<p>Resource</p> <p><i>"<u>Inequality of wealth and incomes is the cause of the masses' well-being</u>, not of anybody's distress"</i> <i>"Bigness in business does not impair, but <u>improves conditions of the rest of the people</u>"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Common among conservatives -Inequality framed as an asset to economy -Preaches to <i>their</i> choir—works for conservative in-group speech 	<p>Identity</p> <p><i>"What is inequality but <u>diversity</u> in monetary form?"</i> <i>"The idea of a world where <u>all people are alike</u> is a fantasy for the stupid"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inequality as mathematical identity -Lends credence to idea that progressives want to make everyone exactly the same -Traps us in saying what inequality isn't—forces reactive not proactive stance 	<p>Force/Opponent</p> <p><i>"Inequality <u>destroys</u> notion of the common good"</i> <i>"We must confront directly the <u>threat</u> posed by this inequality"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presents inequality as an accident, a self-propelled force, not human creation -If inequality is an independent force, it's hard to figure out what to do about it