

## **5. Description of “Your First Memory of a Political Event” Exercise**

This is a good exercise to use at the beginning of the semester, because it broadens students’ concept of politics and helps them see that politics has played a role in their lives. I ask them to share their first memory of a political event, which I model for them. I usually make a joke about my age, which always helps build community, and then tell of the impact that the JFK assassination had on me. Then we go around, with each person sharing their event. My model encourages them to tell a little story, which deepens the impact. It’s important to go around rather than have people raise hands, in order to convey the message that everyone’s story matters.