

About Civil Dialogue

Civil Dialogue provides a place for civilized, facilitated citizen dialogues about the issues of our times. The format was created at the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University and continues to be developed by John Genette, Jennifer Linde, Clark Olson, and other scholars.

For more information about Civil Dialogue:
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www.civil-dialogue.com

The Ground Rules of Civility

Participants can be passionate but not hostile.

- ✓ Focus on how the statement makes you feel.
- ✓ Avoid framing the dialogue as an argument.

Participants should use truthful speech that does not attack others.

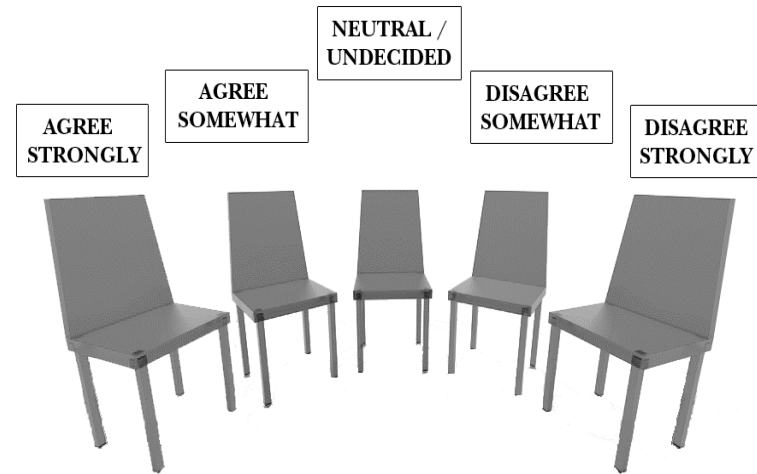
- ✓ “I” language shows conviction, “You” language implies critique.
- ✓ Use your own words and avoid slogans that advocate your position.
- ✓ Disagree without demonizing.

Participants should listen respectfully while others speak.

- ✓ Listen with empathy rather than criticism.
- ✓ Listen patiently; do not interrupt.
- ✓ Do not engage in fake listening as you plan out what you want to say next.

Civil Dialogue®

Hot Topics, Cool Heads®



A round of Civil Dialogue (30-45 minutes)

- The facilitator presents a controversial or provocative statement to be discussed.
- Audience members consider their positions on the topic.
- Five volunteer participants are recruited from the audience to take a position on the statement.
- The facilitator reviews the ground rules of civility.
- The dialogue:
 - Opening statements from the five speakers
 - Dialogue between the five speakers
 - Audience comments & questions
 - Closing statements from the five speakers
- The facilitator summarizes the round.

Civil Dialogue Tracking Sheet – Round 1

Quotation/statement to be discussed

My position:

Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree
(Strongly) (Somewhat) Undecided (Somewhat) (Strongly)

Why: _____

Names of volunteer speakers:

Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree
(Strongly) (Somewhat) Undecided (Somewhat) (Strongly)

Notes: _____

My critique of the round:

How I feel about the quote now:

Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree
(Strongly) (Somewhat) Undecided (Somewhat) (Strongly)

Why: _____

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Quotation/statement to be discussed:

My position:

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Why: _____

Names of volunteer speakers:

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Notes: _____

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How I feel about the quote now:

Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree
(Strongly) (Somewhat) Undecided (Somewhat) (Strongly)

Why: _____
