

GUIDE FOR DIALOGUE FACILITATORS

1. **Explain process** to participants.

This is a dialogue method taught to us by the Public Conversations Project, which works around the world to facilitate dialogue on prickly topics. It's a very structured approach, where a facilitator offers a question, allows a short time for reflection and then gives each person a set amount time to answer. We ask that no one interrupt, ask questions or respond. We go through two rounds of this process, before the facilitator opens up the discussion for questions and responses.

2. **Make agreements** with participants.

- a. We will speak for ourselves, rather than trying to represent a group.
- b. We will speak from personal experience.
- c. We will avoid criticizing others.
- d. We will share airtime and not interrupt others.
- e. We will "pass" or "pass for now" if we are not willing or ready to respond to a question.
- f. We will keep what we hear in this room confidential.

3. **Introductions:** Your name and why you came here tonight, or other intro question of your choice.

Ask people to keep it to two sentences, max.

4. **Split into groups** of 3-5 people, each with a facilitator.

5. **Round one** (2 minutes per person):

- Facilitator briefly explains the process, that there will be a question, a short pause for reflection, and then each person will have two minutes to answer.
- Pose the question: **Talk about a time when you felt out of place or different.** (Or other question that includes everyone and is broad enough that answers do not have to relate to immigration.) *Specify that their answer does not have to relate to immigration, race or culture. It could be about going to the beach and not knowing how to swim, for example. Anything.*
- Allow 30 seconds or so for quiet reflection.
- Call on the first person. Warn them at 30 seconds remaining. Gently cut them off at 2 minutes.
- Repeat with each participant.
- Remember that people can pass.

6. **Round two** (1 minute per person):

- Pose the question: **What did you learn from the situation? If you could go back, would you have changed your response?**
- Repeat same process as in Round One.

7. **Facilitator opens up the discussion**, so participants can respond to each other and ask questions.