

Conversation Agreements

Be curious and open to learning.

Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. Enjoy hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration.

Show respect and suspend judgment.

Human beings tend to judge one another; do your best not to. Setting judgments aside opens you up to learning from others and makes them feel respected and appreciated.

Find common ground and note differences.

Look for a common ground you can agree on and take an interest in the differing beliefs and opinions of others.

Be authentic and welcome that from others.

Share what's important to you. Speak authentically from your personal experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.

Be purposeful and to the point.

Notice if what you are conveying is or is not pertinent to the topic at hand.

Own and guide the conversation.

Take responsibility for the quality of your participation and that of the conversation. Be proactive in getting yourself and others back on track if needed.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- Briefly share a moment when you made *an impulsive judgment* about someone during a contentious discussion and *how the communication went awry as a result*. How did you come to recognize your impulsive judgment and its effects?

...OR...
 - Briefly share a time *when you overcame an impulsive judgment* about someone, and how that significantly improved the quality of your conversation about a contentious topic.
 - What did you learn from either experience?*
- Consider your observations of people caught in the throes of hateful emotions. Briefly share an experience when you witnessed *how this distorted their ability to understand the reality of the situation or the facts on the issue*. What, if anything, enabled you (or someone else) to help them back to a more charitable perspective or truthful understanding?

...OR...
 - Briefly share an experience when you witnessed a person undergo a transformation away from hate as a default emotion, and *what exactly enabled them to do so*.

3. Briefly recount an experience where an individual, or group of individuals, were publically made to be the target(s) of hateful language.

What effects did this experience appear to have on them, and what did you do (or could have done) *to make them feel supported?*

Hate Speech: How We Can Respond Nov. 18, 2019 6:00-8:00 pm @ Vancouver Community Library

NOTE: For each session in this series, all handouts with embedded links are available at www.circleofpeaceonline.org/

Helpful Resources -- Archives & Overviews:

1. Organized by Oxford professor Timothy Garton Ash and Oxford graduate students, *Free Speech Debate* is a clearinghouse of articles and resources capturing the latest fronts in free speech controversies from around the world. <https://freespeechdebate.com/tag/hate-speech/>
2. AllSides -- Balanced Search -- "Hate Speech": https://www.allsides.com/allsides-search-results?search_api_views_fulltext=hate+speech&created=2&submit_x=23&submit_y=35

Helpful Resources -- Articles of Interest:

1. Southern Poverty Law Center's *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide* <https://www.splcenter.org/20170814/ten-ways-fight-hate-community-response-guide>
2. *Why We Hate Discussion Guide*: <https://discovery.sndimg.com/content/dam/documents/Discovery/2019/10/WhyWeHateDiscussionGuide.pdf>
3. *Not In Our Town: Community Response To Hate A Quick Guide For Action*: This Action Kit provides advice and resources to assist community leaders, members and local government leaders with effective ways to respond to and prevent hate crimes and bias incidents. <https://www.niot.org/stop-hate-action-kits/community-response-to-hate>
4. Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" *Coordinator Handbook & Resource Guide* <https://www.adl.org/media/11295/download>
5. *A Guide for Administrators, Counselors and Teachers: Responding to Hate and Bias at School - Teaching Tolerance* http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Responding%20to%20Hate%20at%20School%20ONLINE_3.pdf
6. Article 19 'Hate Speech' *Explained: A Toolkit* https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/38231/Hate_speech_report-ID-files--final.pdf
7. "How to help kids recognize, and handle, online hate speech" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2018/11/26/how-help-kids-recognize-handle-online-hate-speech/>
8. *Defusing Hate: A Strategic Communication Guide to Counteract Dangerous Speech*, by Rachel Hilary Brown <https://www.usmmm.org/genocide-prevention/reports-and-resources/defusing-hate-a-guide-to-counteract-dangerous-speech>
9. "Dangerous Speech: A Practical Guide," by Susan Benesch, et.al @ The Dangerous Speech Project <https://dangerousspeech.org/guide/>; and "What Is Dangerous Speech?" video: <https://dangerousspeech.org/>

Helpful Resources -- Videos of Interest:

1. *Why We Hate* six-part series (2019) on Discovery Go: <https://www.discovery.com/shows/why-we-hate>
2. Common Sense Media: "5 Ways to Deal with Hate Speech Online" (1:00): <https://www.common Sense Media.org/videos/5-ways-to-deal-with-hate-speech-online>
3. "Hate speech policy: YouTube Community Guide" <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2801939?hl=en>
4. "Social Media and Hate Speech: Who Gets to Decide?" Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU, argues that censorship does more harm than good—especially when it comes to social media. <https://youtu.be/bqhTL5gU6fs>
5. "Free Speech in an Age of Social Media" Panel discussion moderated by John Samples, VP, Cato Institute, with speakers Corynne McSherry, Legal Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation; Thomas Kadri, Resident Fellow, Yale Information Society Project; Jonathan Rauch, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; Lori Moylan, Public Policy Manager at Facebook. <https://youtu.be/agdZCzbwqo>