

BUILDING BRIDGES Group at The Pinehills

Bridging the partisan divide through deep cross-partisan exploration of today's serious threats to US Democracy.

Session 5 July 18, 2022

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Where are we?

Define Problem and Agree on Method

[5/16] Introductions
and Foundations

Apply Methods to INCOME INEQUALITY

[6/6]
Triad Engagement
[6/20]
Caucuses (L, M, C)
[7/7]
Fishbowls (L, M, C)

Conclude Learnings

[7/18]
Final Triads
[8/1]
Feedback Session
(optional, on zoom)

Tonight's Agenda

- *Provide* commentary on the Fishbowls of Session 4 - Arlene and Rick
 - Observations on both Presentation Portion and Questioning Portion
 - Principles applied or not-applied, especially
 - Full spectrum conversations
 - Seeking to understand versus making points
 - Taking winning off the table
 - Replacing Contempt with Curiosity, avoiding Divisive language and terminology
 - Prioritizing relationships over ideas
- *Conduct* Final Triads
- *Share* content and experiences from the Triads
- *Wrap it up!*

The *Final Triads* (60 minutes)

- Each participant briefly shares *their* views (5 mins each)
 - Experiences and Influencers
 - **Values and Beliefs**
 - **Vision and Outcomes**
 - **Actions and Paths**
 - Assessments
- Triad identifies all “common ground” (from bolded items above)
 - **Capture them for sharing with the full group**
- Triad identifies the top 1-2 areas of major disagreement
- Triad endeavors to conduct civil tri-alog to reconcile or find common agreement using all BB principles
 - **Capture description of the engagement for sharing with the full group**

Review: Our Agreed Top Civil Discourse Principles

- Take winning off the table
- Seek to understand
- Honor the fact of multiple truths
- Embrace your discomfort and vulnerability
- Prioritize relationships over ideas

Introducing: Full Spectrum Conversations

- **Experiences** – share events and influencers that shaped your personal values and beliefs on the issue
- **Values** – identify your defining values and beliefs, that frame the issue
- **Vision** – share your description of the desired outcomes to resolve the issue
- **Paths** – suggest possible alternative paths to attain your desired outcomes
- **Analysis** – assess the strengths and weaknesses of your proposed paths

SUGGESTED TOOL ... #1

Replace Contempt with Curiosity

In response to another person's comment

When you feel contempt ...

... identify it

..... replace it with curiosity

..... and ask a non-inflammatory "why?" question

Repeat as necessary

SUGGESTED TOOL ... #2

Avoid DIVISIVE language and terminology

Why?

- Reinforces stereotypes
- Fosters group think
- Makes accurate disagreement difficult to achieve
- Contributes to mutual incomprehension
- Uses language for virtue signaling and in-group bonding
- Replaces authentic expression with formulaic expression
- Communicates instantly a polarized persona

Triad Experience Worksheet

Common Ground Found (Beliefs/Values, Vision/Outcomes, Alternatives) :

Major Issue(s) Tri-alog (issue, process, principles, experience) :



Wrap-Up

- Identify possible actions post group
- Feedback