

What if what unites us is more than we realize... and what divides us is less than we fear?



"A house divided against itself cannot stand."
— Abraham Lincoln



www.letstalkamerica.org

You are invited to join a Let's Talk America conversation

where you'll sit down with people like you ~ *and not like you* ~ in a living experience of democracy. You'll explore questions that matter to all of us in this election year. Freedom. Fairness. Honesty. What America is about... and could be.



We are all We-the-People.
Every voice matters.
Join us!



Find a conversation near you at: www.letstalkamerica.org

How to get involved

Host: Invite friends to your home, a bookstore, library or café. Use the process, agreements and questions on the back to have an LTA conversation. Register on the website to open your group to new people.

Convene: Build a network of people and groups who may differ in views but care about democracy. Hold a city-wide LTA event.

Endorse: Take a stand for a *more perfect union* among *We The People*. Add your name, or your organization's, to the list of endorsers.

Donate: Talk is cheap, speech is still free, but bringing LTA to the people has costs - support it!

Participate: Thousands of hosts everywhere are welcoming LTA talkers and listeners to their conversations.

From Good to Great
Here are some ways to stay at ease, curious and inviting and keep the conversation interesting: ~ **if your curiosity is piqued...** Tell me more about... ~ **if your instinct is to counter another's statement...** This is what I heard you say: is it what you meant? ~ **if you are with someone who begins advocating for a fixed position...** What led you to this point of view? ~ **if you are with someone who begins campaigning for a candidate...** What is most important to you in a leader? ~ **if you are with someone who always agrees with you...** What if the opposite were true?

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Conversation Starters
What do you cherish about America?
What did you understand about being an American when you were 12? Now?
Where do you place yourself on the political map and what experience(s) got you there?
About what issue would it be hard for you to have a respectful conversation and why?
If you disagree on a topic with someone, what question might you ask to help you understand them?
When have you felt, "This is what democracy looks like!"?

Process
Assemble up to 8 people per table, one host, a hearty topic and a talking object. Host explains process and agreements
Round One: Passing around the talking object, each person speaks briefly to the topic
Round Two: Again with talking object, each person deepens their own comments or speaks to what has meaning now
Dialogue: Open, spirited conversation. Use talking object only when there is domination, contention or lack of focus
Final Round: With talking object, each person says briefly what was meaningful to them

www.conversationcafe.org

Agreements
Open-mindedness: listen to and respect all points of view.
Acceptance: suspend judgment as best you can.
Curiosity: seek to understand rather than persuade.
Discovery: question old assumptions, look for new insights.
Sincerity: speak for yourself about what has personal heart and meaning.
Brevity: go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.
Process & Agreements from Conversation Cafe