Overview

In Living Room Conversations, a small group of people (ideally six) come together to get to know one another in a more meaningful way. Guided by a simple and sociable format, participants practice being open and curious about all perspectives, with a focus on learning from one another, rather than trying to debate the topic at hand.

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 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.

Though feedback is consistently positive, some people are concerned about managing people that dominate the conversation as well as off-topic, or disruptive situations during the Living Room Conversation. We offer these tips:

- Everyone shares responsibility for guiding the conversation and is invited to help keep the conversation on track.
- The group can decide to keep track of time in some way to help people remember to keep their comments similar in length to others. Soft music when the time is up is a great reminder.
- If an area of interest has arisen that has taken the group off topic, ask the group if they would like to set aside the new topic for a separate Living Room Conversation.
- If someone is dominating, disruptive or has found their soapbox, respectfully interrupt the situation, refer to the Conversation Agreements and invite everyone to get back on track with the current question
- If the group opts to shift from the format of the Living Room Conversations, please provide us with feedback for future learning. There are many ways to have a great conversation! Thank you! feedback@livingroomconversations.org

Money and Values

Rounds/Questions: The Living Room Conversation Starts Here

How we earn, spend and invest our money impacts individuals, communities, the environment and the world. Some people say that how we use our money shows what we truly value. How, if at all, does money serve that role for you? This conversation seeks to reflect on our financial choices so we may find ways to act in greater harmony with our values.

Introductions: Getting Started / Why Are We Here?
- What interested you or drew you to this conversation?

Round One: Core Values
Answer <u>one or more</u> of the following:
- What sense of purpose / mission / duty guides you in your life?
- What would your best friend say about who you are?
- What are your hopes and concerns for your community and/or the country?

Round Two: Money and Values
Remember that the goal for this Living Room Conversation is for all of us to listen and learn about where we have different opinions and where we have shared interests, intentions and goals. Answer <u>one or more</u> of the following questions:
- What are the things you like about the way you spend/invest your money?
- Are there areas where you want to shift the way you spend/invest?
- Do we have responsibilities to use our money in a way that reflects our values? Or would this complicate our lives too much?
- What does money mean or represent to you? (i.e. security, power, exchange or ?)

Round Three: Reflection & Next Steps
Answer <u>one or more</u> of the following questions:
- In one sentence, share what was most meaningful / valuable to you in the experience of this Living Room Conversation.
- What learning, new understanding or common ground was found on this topic?
- Has this conversation changed your perception of anyone in this group, including yourself?
- What is one important thing you thought was accomplished here?
- Is there a next step you would like to take based upon the conversation you just had?

Closing – Thank you! Please complete the feedback form to help improve Living Room Conversations.

Host & Participant Feedback Form
Turn in to your host or take pictures and email them to feedback@livingroomconversations.org
❐ you may use my photo in materials for Living Room Conversations

Conversation type: ❐ in person ❐ video

Name:_____

Email:_____

Name of host: _____

Topic :_____

City_____ State _____

How would you classify yourself politically?
Social issues:
traditional ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ progressive
Economic issues:
conservative ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ liberal

Generally, how comfortable are you talking about politicized topics with people who are different from you?

Very Uncomfortable ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Very Comfortable

How comfortable did you feel discussing the topic of your Living Room Conversation with this group?

Very Uncomfortable ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Very Comfortable

Did you enjoy the Living Room Conversation experience?

I thought it was extremely valuable ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ I do not think it was valuable

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How likely are you to recommend your family/ friends engage with Living Room Conversations?

I will absolutely recommend ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ I would not recommend this

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What relationship do you feel towards the people in your conversation?

More understanding/appreciation ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Less understanding/appreciation

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Did you learn or become aware of something valuable during the conversation
❐ yes
❐ no
What did you learn? What was valuable to you?

How do you feel about these kinds of conversations in the future?
❐ I want to co-host my own
❐ I would like to be a participant in another conversation
❐ I would rather not have these kinds of conversations again
Can we follow up with you?   ❐ Yes! Keep me updated on Living Room Conversations notices and research.
Comments:

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