



Setting the Table for Civility

Three Questions About Civility During the Holiday Season

Starting with Thanksgiving and going throughout the holiday season of 2017, people are invited to take part in "Setting the Table for Civility" and to talk with each other about healing the deep divisions in our country and take some action to help increase civility and understanding between Americans. While many of us have experienced loss or harm to treasured relationships because of our politics, we know there is a human resilience, a hunger for respect, and desire to repair and rebuild bridges. Here are some questions you can use during the holidays as you gather.

Get to Know Each Other Better

When you get together, first take a little time and get to know each other. Share some information about your background, your family and what sense of purpose or duty guides you in life. If you know those gathered, explore a most treasured memory or what is valued most in a friendship/relationship.

After a few minutes, take turns talking about the three questions below:

Question #1: What are you most thankful for about living in America?

Share your views around the good things about life in our country. Ask follow up questions of each other and look for shared views where they exist.

Question #2: How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?

Give your views about the divisions you see in your life (e.g. your friendships, family, community, school, businesses, in the government). Talk about why you think this has happened and what are the main causes. How are stereotypes contributing to polarization? How is social media affecting our divisions?

Question #3: What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to work together?

Discuss ideas about how the media, politicians, and individuals can promote respect and civility that lead to agreements and better decision-making for communities. Are there ways we can have fun, share fellowship together while reviving civility and respect? Talk about what would need to happen to make your ideas a reality. Consider writing down and making a plan for any ideas that you want to act on.

Share Your Conversation

Be part of the Initiative to Revive Civility. We would love to hear what you learned from the conversation and what you plan to do next. Be creative in sharing your conversation (take a photo, make a short video, or write to us). Make sure you used the #ReviveCivility hashtag and #SettingtheTable so we can follow your journey. Happy Holidays!

