

## National Week of Conversation

### Bridging the Political Divide

#### Suggestions for Setting Up a One on One Conversation

##### Step 1: Make a commitment to participate in National Week of Conversation

- Sign up at <https://www.revivecivility.org/national-week-conversation>
- Encourage others you know to join you and take part in National Week of Conversation

##### Step 2: Decide who to invite to join you in conversation

- Your goal is to have a civil and respectful conversation with a person who you believe has significantly different views than you on the major issues facing our country
- You can either invite someone you know or someone you have never met and just know about
- You may want to choose someone who has something in common with you, but has different political views. This person might be a friend, a colleague or a neighbor or someone you know who shares your interest in a particular subject.
  - Faith Based - If you are affiliated with a church, you may want to invite someone from a different denomination that is generally more liberal or conservative than yours (i.e. Presbyterians could meet with Southern Baptists)
  - School/Universities - If you are at a university, you could meet with a fellow student with different views (i.e. members of conservative or liberal political groups).
  - Political Groups - One other easy way to find a conversation partner on a campus or in the community is to invite someone who is directly affiliated with a different political party. For example, if you are a Democrat, look online and see who is active with the local Republican Party and invite one of their officers to meet with you.

##### Step 3: Issue an invitation to your potential conversation partner

- Decide whether you want to invite someone via email, over the phone or in person
- Whichever invitation method you use, share the purpose of getting together and make it clear that you are part of a national effort involving many people.
  - You may want to say something like this: "A number of national groups are organizing a [National Week of Conversation](#) to encourage people of

different political views to get together, listen across differences and share ideas about how to promote civility and respect in the 2018 elections. I am interested in participating in the week of conversation and would like you to be my partner. Would you be willing to meet with me for a 30-60 minute conversation in person (or in video chat) to talk about what how we can help bridge divides and revive civility in our country?"

- If you send an email, you may also want to connect through a follow up call to explain National Week of Conversation more fully and how easy it is to participate
- You may also wish to share the [Five Questions for Americans Worksheet](#) with your potential partner so they can see that the questions are non-partisan and not politically charged.
- Of course, if someone doesn't accept, go back to step two and start over again!

#### **Step 4: Agree on a time and place to meet**

- Conversations will generally be 30-60 minutes long so meet in a place where you can be relaxed and talk easily. Set a time that is convenient for both of you and that will enable you to have enough time to talk together without being rushed.
- Some locations that might work are a coffee shop, an office, a room in your house, a community center, or a library meeting room. In person offers the best possibility and connection, but if that is not possible, consider meeting over an online system like Skype or Zoom.
- If at all possible meet during April 20-28, which is the time designated for National Week of Conversation. However, if your schedules conflict that week then schedule the conversation for as close to the week as you can.

#### **Step 5: Download and share the One on One Conversation Guide and the Five Questions Worksheet**

- Make copies for yourself of both the [One on One Conversation Guide](#) and the [Five Questions for Americans Worksheet](#)
- Share the One on One Conversation and/or a copy of the Five Questions Worksheet with your conversation partner
- Read through the questions and, if you want, make notes on the answers that come to mind for you

#### **Step 6: Meet with your conversation partner and discuss the Five Questions**

- Make sure you or your conversation partner takes responsibility to ask the questions and guide the conversation as described in the conversation guide. If you want, both of you can use the conversation guide and take turns leading the conversation.

- Make notes on your Five Questions for Americans Worksheet about things you and your partner say
- Share information about how to report the results of your conversation and determine if both of you are going to do that or if one person will report on the conversation

### **Step 7: Take five minutes to share some feedback about your conversation**

- We are gathering ideas from around the country to share with other citizens, media and policy makers – so we thank you for your response as it can help us on the tone in 2018. To share your feedback, go to:  
<https://www.revivecivility.org/NWOC-Form>
- Sharing your conversation on social media can also help change the tone of our conversations (take a selfie/photo, or short video with an idea you had). Make sure you use the #ReviveCivility hashtag and #NWOC, #ListenFirst so we can follow your journey.