

10-18-2017

Living Room Conversations

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Recommended Citation

Carr, Rachel; Cornelius, Justin; Mailloux, Matthew; Miller, Alicia; Scheel, Anemone; Smither, James PhD; and Zindel, George, "Living Room Conversations" (2017). *Explorer Café*. 61.
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- Rachel Carr, '18
- Justin Cornelius, '19
- Matthew Mailloux, '18
- Alicia Miller, '18
- Anemone Scheel, '19
- George Zindel, '19

<http://www.livingroomconversations.org/>

Today's discussion ...

- Inclusion and the American identity
 - Immigrants, refugees, multiculturalism, national cultural identity, salad bowl or melting pot, shared values and aspirations, etc.

The art of civil discourse means no soapboxes here

When we have authentic, respectful conversations we strengthen our relationships and advance our understanding of the challenges, opportunities and solutions before us

- “We know that solutions cannot be found unless we make an effort to speak with one another and hear each others’ concerns”
- “In conversation we can begin to better understand one another and be reminded that there are a multitude of possible ideas and potential solutions between the oversimplified and highly publicized positions of pro and con”

- No fancy event or skilled facilitator is needed

Conversation ground rules

Be curious and open to learning.

Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. Listen and be open to hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration and learning.

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 appreciate differences.

Look for a common ground you can agree on and appreciate the differences in the 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. Be cognizant of making the same point more than once.

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.