



Suggested length: 45 minutes

RECOMMENDED GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 We shape our world through relationships. Most people agree we want classrooms and communities where all people have dignity and respect. Yet respectful interactions are often not what we see modeled in the media and in politics. And far too many people feel disrespected in their lives. What can we do about this? In this conversation, you and other participants will explore questions around relationships, respecting differences, and resolving problems. By practicing the conversation agreements and sticking to the three-round structure, you'll learn more about how you and your peers think about the importance of putting relationships first.

Question Round 1: Get to know each other

Suggested length: 15 minutes

Get to know each other a bit by sharing something personal. Each participant should answer one or more of the following questions:

- How would you describe your town? (e.g. urban, rural, crowded, empty, big, small ...)
- How would you describe your school? (e.g. big, small, public, private, easy, fun, competitive, stressful ...)
- What are your favorite activities or hobbies outside of school?
- What do you want to do after you graduate?
- How would your best friends describe you?

Question Round 2: Listen and share to understand

Suggested length: 20 minutes

Share your views -- and listen openly to others' views -- on the assigned topic, without debating or trying to change anyone's opinion. Each participant should answer one or more of the following questions:

- Do you think you are a good listener? Why or why not? What does it mean to listen respectfully to others?
- Can you think of someone you know who is a good friend to others? What makes them a good friend?
- Can you remember a time when you disagreed with a close friend or family member about something important to you? How did it feel to disagree?
- Have you ever seen or been in a conversation where people were not listening to each other? How did that turn out?
- Have you ever shared an opinion that was very different from a group you are part of? What was it about? How did that feel?
- Have you ever decided against speaking out because you were worried about how others would react? How did that feel?

Question Round 3: Reflect and share takeaways

Suggested length: 10 minutes

The goal of this round is to reflect on -- and share with other participants -- how it felt to join this conversation. Each participant should answer one or more of the following questions:

- In one sentence, share what was most valuable to you in this conversation.
- What new learning or appreciation do you have after joining this conversation?
- Have you found common ground or areas of interest that surprised you?
- What is one important thing you thought was accomplished here?