

Good Questions for Great Gatherings: Exploring Current Events

Your Short Cut to Meaningful Conversations

Great conversations begin with good questions. Make your next gathering more memorable by sprinkling in some of our favorite questions from the Conversation Guide library. You can try asking them at the dinner table, in the car, even over Zoom.

No matter how different the holidays look this year, with a little planning and creativity, our gatherings can shimmer with thoughtfulness, curiosity, and generosity of spirit...and help us experience the true meaning of the season.

Conversation Agreements

Be curious and listen to understand.

Show respect and suspend judgment.

Note any common ground as well as any differences.

Be authentic and welcome that from others.

Be purposeful and to the point.

Own and guide the conversation.

These questions cover a lot of ground. No pressure to get through all of them in one sitting. It might take multiple conversations. Choose as many or as few as whatever works for your time and setting.

- What **current events** are taking up a lot of space for you right now?
- What do you wish you could **talk about more meaningfully**? Who would you like to be a part of that conversation?
- How do you decide what news sources to trust? How has your **trust in news sources** changed? What consequences have you seen or expected from the spread of "fake news"?
- How has the government's response, the public's response, or the response of the media you follow impacted your **perception of the pandemic**? Describe any dissonance or gray areas you are finding.
- What are the benefits and/or costs for **the divisiveness of our politics**? Has this changed for you over the years?
- What is your experience interacting or staying connected to others you care about who feel differently about **the 2020 presidential election**?
- What would a society that **values racial and ethnic differences look like**? What hopes and fears come up for you thinking about that society?
- What thoughts and emotions have the murders of **Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd** brought up in you? What has this been like for you?
- What story from **this time of pandemic** has been most inspirational for you? How does it impact your own experience?

*Want more guidance for connecting? Check out our Friends and Family Conversation Tips!
livingroomconversations.org/friends-and-family-guide/*