



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LISTENING

September 20, 2018

Topic for this year:

Listen even when you disagree.

Modern community is disintegrating; people are lonelier; and social media are distracting from the honesty and connection of face-to-face listening and communication. Without relationship and connection, face-to-face interaction is only a thin presence, a limited human connection. We need experiences that can support community building--listening and dialogue are strong candidates.

Title: Discussing Issues

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Subject: Discussing issues in a dialogue group: Dialoguing to learn to listen.

Interest Area: Personal, Professional and Education

Appropriate Age: Anyone can benefit from a “disagreeable” conversation even from a very young age. The idea is to choose something that is of concern to the person around this topic.

Time required: the time you allow to this conversation depends on the people involved and your situation

Purpose

Objectives:

Learning to listen in a dialogue setting where people connect and interact in a face-to-face setting.

Skill Development:

- Skills of listening, thoughtful sharing and the all-important skill of community development

Materials Needed

Material:

Location: You will need a quiet, comfortable setting. Consider having some light refreshments and snacks. This seems to help put people at ease.

Number of participants: A group of 9-15 people or so works best, though David Bohm in the resource on dialogue suggests much larger groups. However, our experience is that

smaller dialogue groups provide more focus on learning to listen, sharing, getting to know others, and especially building community.

Instructions

1. Identify someone willing to help choose a topic and to organize the group—this position can change for each dialogue meeting.
2. Topics can vary but we usually choose interesting life issues, like “aging,” “being creative,” “what is life all about,” “humor,” play.”
3. The group facilitator can get things started with an introduction to the topic of discussion.

Listening Guidelines and Tools (How to listen more effectively)

The most important listening attitude for this activity is that we are listening to learn and share, and that one’s position on an issue is not all that important.

See Templates & Guides <http://internationaldayoflistening.com/templates-guides/>
10 Listening Tips <http://internationaldayoflistening.com/10-listening-tips/>

Resources

International Day of Listening website: www.internationaldayoflistening.com
International Listening Association website: www.listen.org

Other internet resources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/16/opinion/facebook-social-wealth.html>

<https://hbr.org/cover-story/2017/09/work-and-the-loneliness-epidemic>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/has-the-smartphone-destroyed-a-generation/534198/>

<http://www.david-bohm.net/dialogue/>

Outcomes and Evaluation (What should participants have accomplished, and how will they measure success?)

Success is simple here: to enjoy listening and conversing, and especially learning and sharing. If people enjoy themselves and want to come back for another conversation, you have been successful. We have had dozens of conversations over several years. One series was about life issues, the other about politics, and both have been enjoyable because people learned to listen.

Please share your experience with the rest of the world.



International Listening Association

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