



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LISTENING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

To: Educators and Administrators  
Subject: **Listen - even when you disagree**

Hello Educators,

Who knew—that this year we would need better listening around the world even more than last year? Not only are our students spending more time on social media sites, they are becoming more addicted to their smartphones, and their communication and social skills are declining. But adults also seem to have forgotten how to have a “civil” disagreement. We see more adults yelling their opinions at each, insulting each other, and even using violence to silence the other side.

**As a world, we can do better.**

The **International Day of Listening** (September 20, 2018) is designed to help us better listen to each other. This year the theme is “Listen - even when you disagree.” Perhaps you know someone who could do a better job of listening during disagreements. Perhaps you, too, could do a better job. But where do people learn how to listen to each other when disagreeing? Are we seeing effective models of how to do this type of listening?

Fortunately, help is here—only a few clicks away!

Check out [www.internationaldayoflistening.com](http://www.internationaldayoflistening.com). You will find a wealth of information about how to conduct disagreeable discussions, as well as an invitation to participate in this year’s IDL activities. This year we are planning to hold Listening Cafes —where people will sit down together to discuss a controversial topic—perhaps over coffee, sodas, or light refreshments, and perhaps find solutions, rather than create more discord.

As educators, this year let’s aim to have an impact not only on our students, but on the future of humankind. Here is how:

1. Plan a Listening Café with your students. Involve your students and have them identify a controversial topic.
2. Invite your students to participate in a discussion of this topic. But first, help them learn how. Visit the IDL website to find out how. You will find templates and guidelines for planning and carrying out a Listening Café, and this can be for any number of people.

3. Check out the many resources to help your students learn how to listen when controversial topics are being discussed. If we don't listen to each other, we will never solve the problems. Check out the video series on Ten Listening Tips. And there is a downloadable "listenmark" (like a bookmark, only for listening) and posters on the IDL website.

Share your plans on our International Day of Listening Facebook page and social media sites and on your Facebook page and social media sites. Like us and follow us on:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dayoflistening](http://www.facebook.com/dayoflistening)

LinkedIn: International Day of Listening

Twitter: @DayofListening

YouTube: International Day of Listening

Use the hashtags: #DayOfListening #InternationalDayofListening #InternationalListeningAssociation

Use the reply: @DayOfListening

Get the word out through your email contacts and social media sites and pass the IDL website and any appropriate information on to other schools in your area, to local government, local businesses, organizations, churches, or anyone that could benefit from better listening. There are tools that are appropriate for everyone.

**Make a difference!** Do something to promote better listening and help us become better humans by participating in the International Day of Listening.

Let's shoot for over 100,000 participants. The population now is over 7.4 billion, but let's get started!

Regards,

Jean Francois Mathieu and the International Day of Listening Team

Contact us: [info@jfmathieu.com](mailto:info@jfmathieu.com)

**Please share your experience with the rest of the world.**



**International Listening Association**

*Sponsored by the ILA International Listening Association*

[www.listen.org](http://www.listen.org)