



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LISTENING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Be Bold! Listen for Common Ground

Preparing for International Day of Listening Invitation to Participate

August 19: Listening for Common Ground During Conflict

This activity is designed to give you some practice in listening when there is some disagreement or controversy, but not one of those overly contentious topics that turn in to shouting matches. (Save that conversation for International Day of Listening on September 19.) On August 19, we hope you will not only have this Collaborative Conflict Resolution conversation, but that you will also share with others on the IDL's social media sites how your conversation went. Include videos if possible and if appropriate.

The Activity Guide for August 19 is posted on the IDL website

<http://internationaldayoflistening.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Activity-Guide-for-August-19-in-Five-Rounds-Final.pdf>

The process is divided into five rounds, and you can choose to tackle all five rounds or just get started and then finish the conversation at a later time.

We hope this activity will help you prepare to have that more contentious conversation successfully and with better outcomes on September 19, the International Day of Listening.

1. Decide whom you will listen to. This can be one person or a group of people that will listen to each other.
2. What will the topic be? Choose something that is somewhat controversial, but not too contentious.
3. Decide when and where you will meet.
4. Why will you have this conversation? What goals do you hope to achieve?

Then fill out the invitation below and send it to those you would like to invite to share common ground with on Monday, August 19.

Invitation to a Conversation

Dear _____,

September 19, 2019, is the International Day of Listening. This year's theme is ***Be Bold: Listen for Common Ground***. This year's IDL is dedicated to helping people have better conversations about controversial topics. These conversations will hopefully lead to better outcomes.

With this in mind, **on August 19**, I would like to invite you to a conversation in which I pledge to listen to you. That will be a practice session for the actual International Day of Listening.

Invitation to a Conversation to Find Common Ground

Dear _____,

You are invited to meet at _____ (time and place)

to have a conversation about _____ (topic).

In the past, we may have not always been successful at sharing our ideas about this topic in a way that maintains respect and ensures understanding, and this is an opportunity for us to engage in a better conversation.

Here is what I will commit to doing:

1. I won't interrupt you.
2. I will let you finish your thought before I respond.
3. I will avoid body language that shows disapproval.
4. I will reflect back to you what I understood you to say.
5. I will not listen to refute what you are saying, but instead I will listen for what we might have in common.
6. When you have completed sharing your views, I will share what I think we have in common.
7. I will then ask you if you are willing to listen to my views in the same manner.

Please RSVP and let me know if you are willing to work together to have a better conversation.

Yours