

LET'S START TALKING

Sample Conversational Questions

1. First, let everyone introduce each other briefly and ask them how they have gotten to where they are today.
2. What is the importance of culture / race / religion to your development?
3. What impact has culture / race / religion had on you?
4. Why do you believe it is important or not to maintain cultural practices, traditions, language through the generations?
5. What are some current problems facing acceptance of diversity in US?
6. How can these problems be addressed societally?
7. How can these problems be addressed on a more individual level, such as by people in this community?
8. What is the importance / significance of this event?
9. What kind of change can this event promote and how can its impact be made to last?
10. Discuss future initiatives that this group can continue. For instance, rotating hosting households.

Guiding Principles

1. Create a space of equality: all members are respected regardless of profession, faith, culture, etc.
2. Create a space for inclusivity: Encourage all voices to share and participate, but respect people's space and a person's decision to not participate.
3. Avoid generalizations. Do not substitute labels for complicated realities, avoid arguments, and do not cut-down any group.
4. Respect differences within one's tradition and the tradition of others.
5. Listen, listen, and when there's nothing left to do, listen. Be curious, its natural, ask respectfully.
6. Include your family. Introduce your children, spouse, etc.

Sample Agenda

1. Welcome your guests
2. Introductions
3. Explain the purpose of the gathering (KYN)
4. Serve Food
5. If a cultural dish served, explain the food and do not hesitate to share recipe
6. Review the guiding principles and suggested questions
7. Plan for a future gathering
8. Take some pictures and share your story via social media
#hostyourneighbor
9. Closing words

For your first meal you may find that introductions could fill the entire evening. That's great! Don't feel as though you need to rigidly adhere to this supplied "road map".