



SESSION 1:

POLITICAL DISCOURSE FOR CIVIC ACTION

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation



ESTABLISHING THE GROUND RULES...

Be respectful of every individual in the room and what their differing backgrounds may be.

Realize and accept that we may leave this room without a resolution to problems that may arise.

Agree to come into this with an open mind and the goal of understanding; do not attempt to persuade.

Ask questions and use "I" statements to draw from personal experiences; try not to represent larger groups.

Be curious and open.

Consciously move beyond stereotypes and assumptions.

If you want to be heard, be sure to listen.

Share speaking time.

Ground Rule additions?





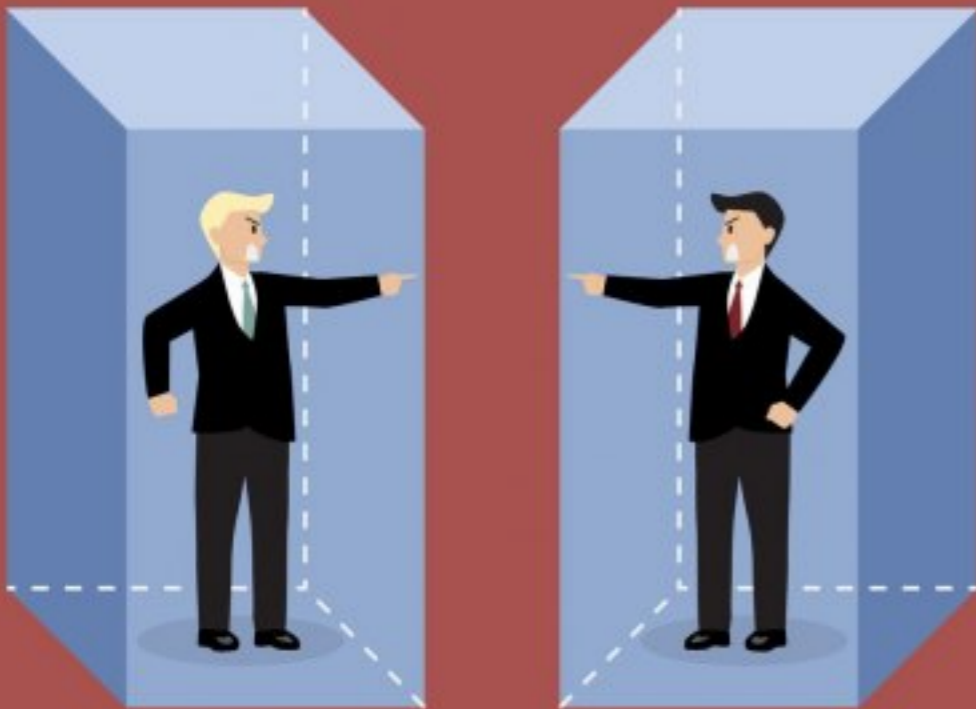
INTRO ACTIVITY

Opening
observations



OPENING DISCUSSION

Our Current
Political Climate



**HOW WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE
POLITICS TODAY?**



"A RETURN TO CIVIL DISCOURSE"

By Malcom Glover



VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are your initial thoughts on the video?
2. Is there anything that stuck out to you about what Mr. Glover said?
3. How do you think an environment without connectivity, but instead divisiveness affects democracy or your perception of democracy?
4. Do you think you know what contributes to your political beliefs?





MAIN ACTIVITY

Deliberative
Political Dialogue



STEP 1: PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take 2 minutes to think about what your own stance on the chosen issue is, and where that stance is rooted.

ASK YOURSELF:

Why do I believe what I believe?

What has influenced me to get to this point?



STEP 2: PARTNER INTERVIEWS

Take 3 minutes to interview someone else. Be sure to not interrupt, and keep in mind that your end goal is to gain understanding. Be sure to pay close attention! Ask more questions if you would like.

ASK THEM:

What is your stance on this issue?

What has influenced you to get to that point?



STEP 3: PARTNER INTERVIEW PRESENTATIONS

Take 2 minutes each to present the partner you just interviewed and what you learned about their stance and what has influenced them to the 4-person group.



STEP 4: ALL SHARE

Take the rest of the time to reflect on these questions:

How did it feel to get to understand where someone's stances come from?

Do you feel like you were able to make a connection?

Were there any overarching commonalities when you were discussing in your 4-person groups?

Is this something that can be done with other people outside of this space? Why or Why not?





THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

-Takeaways -

Any last minute questions?

The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation





SESSION 2:

MAINTAINING DISCOURSE IN THE MODERN DIGITAL AGE

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation



**DO YOU ENJOY
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
POLITICAL DEBATES?**



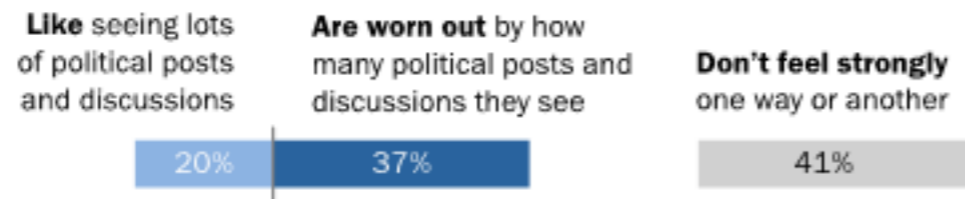
**ARE YOU FRUSTRATED
WITH SOCIAL MEDIA'S
MIX WITH POLITICS?**



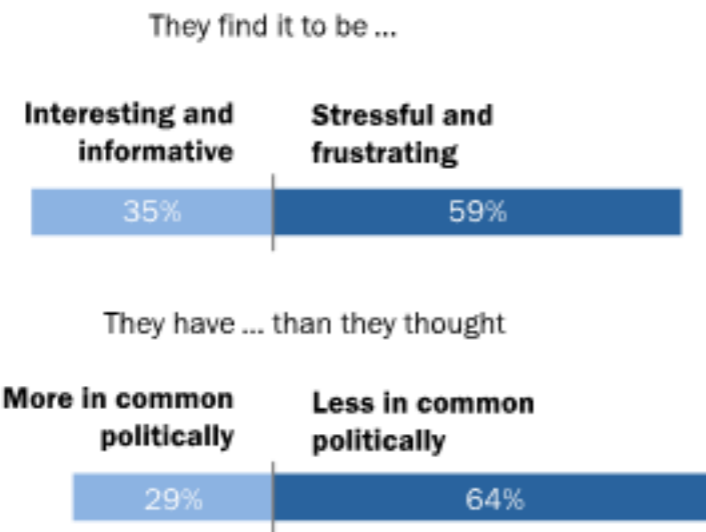
THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

More than one-third of social media users are worn out by the amount of political content they encounter

% of social media users who say they ... about politics on social media



When discussing politics on social media with people they disagree with, % of social media users who say these things



Are you worn out by the content that you encounter?

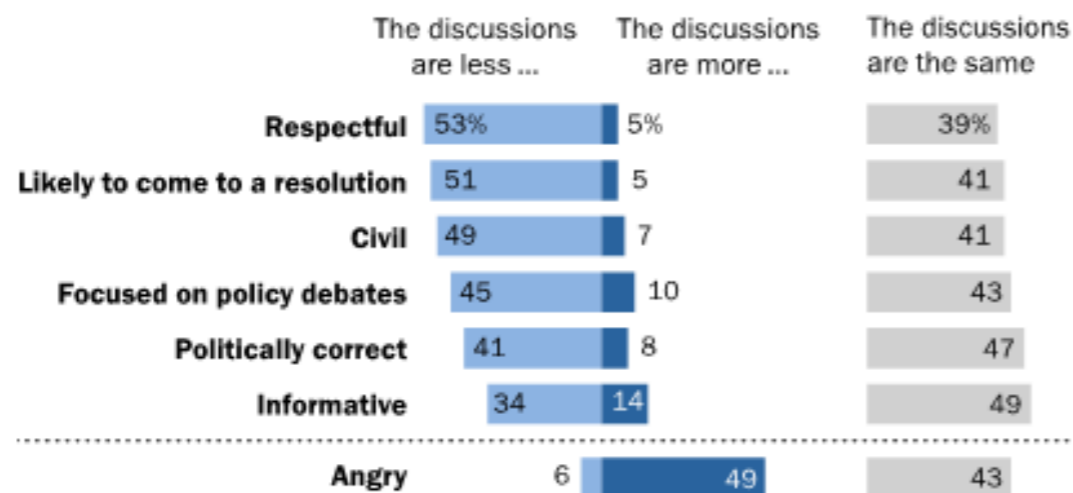
Source: Survey conducted July 12-Aug. 08, 2016.
"The Political Environment on Social Media"



THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Many users see social media as an especially negative venue for political discussions, but others see it as simply “more of the same”

% of social media users who say their political discussions are more or less _____ compared with other places people might discuss politics



Political discussions online are now more...

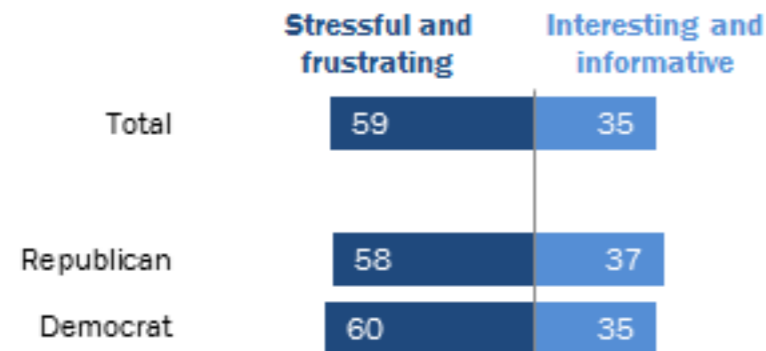
Source: Survey conducted July 12-Aug. 08, 2016. "The Political Environment on Social Media"



THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Majority of users find it stressful to talk politics on social media with people they disagree with politically

% of social media users who say talking about politics on social media with people they disagree with is ...



% of users who say when they talk about politics on social media with people they disagree with, they find that they have ___ politically than they thought



Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and other nonpartisans who "lean" toward the parties.

Source: Survey conducted July 12-Aug. 08, 2016.

"The Political Environment on Social Media"

Do you find it stressful to talk politics on social media with those you disagree with?



THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Posting offensive content is the main reason people block or remove others from their feeds because of politics

% of social media users who have ___ because of something related to politics

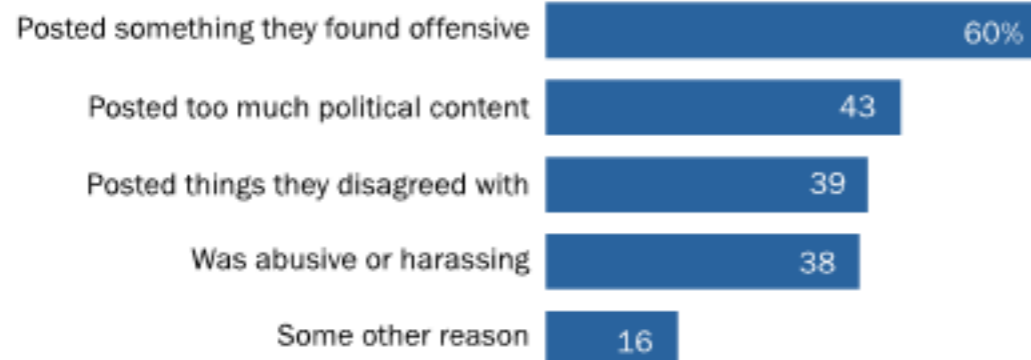
Changed settings to see fewer posts or blocked or unfriended someone

Not done these things

39%

60%

Of that share, percent who did so because someone ...



Source: Survey conducted July 12-Aug. 08, 2016.
"The Political Environment on Social Media"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Have you blocked someone or removed them from your feed because of politics?



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are your initial thoughts or questions on the article you just read?

Is there anything that stood out to you specifically in the article?

Do you agree with the article? Or do you have an opposing opinion on the article?

Thinking about how you conduct yourself on your own social media accounts, do you find yourself often perpetuating these cycles?

What can you do to be a more understanding online citizen?

How can you take what you learned in the past two trainings into your daily life?





THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

-Takeaways -

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