SESSION 1:
POLITICAL DISCOURSE FOR CIVIC ACTION

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
**ESTABLISHING THE GROUND RULES...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Be respectful of every individual in the room and what their differing backgrounds may be.</th>
<th>Realize and accept that we may leave this room without a resolution to problems that may arise.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree to come into this with an open mind and the goal of understanding; do not attempt to persuade.</td>
<td>Ask questions and use “I” statements to draw from personal experiences; try not to represent larger groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be curious and open.</td>
<td>Consciously move beyond stereotypes and assumptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you want to be heard, be sure to listen.</td>
<td>Share speaking time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of social media users who say they ... about politics on social media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Like seeing lots of political posts and discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are worn out by how many political posts and discussions they see</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't feel strongly one way or another</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of social media users who say these things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interesting and informative</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stressful and frustrating</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have ... than they thought</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More in common politically</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less in common politically</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
## 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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The discussions are less ...</th>
<th>The discussions are more ...</th>
<th>The discussions are the same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respectful</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely to come to a resolution</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focused on policy debates</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politically correct</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informative</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
The Political Environment on Social Media

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Social Media Users</th>
<th>Stressful and Frustrating</th>
<th>Interesting and Informative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: Do you find it stressful to talk politics on social media with those you disagree with?
Have you blocked someone or removed them from your feed because of politics?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changed settings to see fewer posts or blocked or unfriended someone</th>
<th>Not done these things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Posted something they found offensive: 60%
- Posted too much political content: 43%
- Posted things they disagreed with: 39%
- Was abusive or harassing: 38%
- Some other reason: 16%

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
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 -

Any last minute questions?

The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation