

One Hour Post-Election Dialogue Guide 2024

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Sustained Dialogue Campus Network

One Hour Presidential Election Dialogue Guide 2024

**Please note: We strongly encourage long-term sustained dialogues to build real relationships across lines of difference over time instead of one-time dialogues.

Pre-Meeting Basics

Moderators, please do not try to guess at people's political parties, especially as many sentiments overlap from the far left and the far right. Be careful of people acting as feelings and perspective authorities. As a moderator, you must validate emotions, and stop your group from invalidating others' emotions.

Here are some things to expect that your **group members may be thinking**:

- "I'm here because I don't understand how people voted."
- "I don't understand the reaction from the public."
- "Anyone who is surprised or scared doesn't know how bad things were before."
- "Things are so bad they can only get better."
- "I feel like third-party candidates gave me hope but failed."
- "We survived Biden; you can survive Trump again."
- "Voting for Trump doesn't make me racist."
- "If Trump's in office, I'm worried I won't have any rights."
- "I feel a lot of blame towards (insert demographic groups)"
- "Harris locked people up for a living."
- "I have no idea what my holiday meals are going to be like."
- "I feel like when Trump's in office hate's just acceptable."
- "I'm fearful."
- "I'm looking for an intersectional movement to organize within. Does anyone care about gender, racial equity, trans rights, Islamophobia, and queer safety all at the same time?"
- "I'm not talking to anyone right now who is surprised about America's racism, religious intolerance, sexism, misogyny, and civil rights erosions."
- "I'm feeling hopeless, but want to know the right things to share with others."
- "I just have absolutely no idea which direction we're going, and I'm concerned."
- "I didn't vote, because I couldn't, but watching this did not surprise me!"
- "I don't know… that Trump guy took a bullet for what he believes… for America."
- "I feel like Trump could be what we need right now."
- "Biden dropped out so late, there was just not enough time to rally for Harris."
- "I feel like a lot of people didn't take Harris seriously because she's a Black woman."

Dialogue Agenda

Framing (1 minute)
I'm your moderator. This will last an hour. There are some agreements we will use today. If anyone is not in a space to agree to these agreements, it is ok, but we will have to ask that you don't participate today.

5 necessary agreements before dialogue can begin (5 minutes)

1. We agree that many points of view and feelings are present and important to understand.
2. We agree not to try to persuade each other around our points of view and feelings.
3. We agree to leave assumptions at the door and keep what we hear confidential.
4. We agree to use "I" statements rather than generalizations.
5. We agree not to interrupt anyone else at any time.

Now that we have an agreement, we can begin with our first question.

Starting question (4 minutes) - Round Robin (give people time one by one in order)
"How would you describe how you're feeling in terms of the weather about the election in one word. For example, sunny might mean, 'I'm feeling happy/optimistic'. Rainy might mean, 'I'm sad.' Stormy might mean, 'I'm angry and frustrated."

Timed Round Robin (15 minutes)
Allow for the option to pass, but do check to see if they're ready after everyone shares.

- Share an experience or set of experiences that you've had that makes this election result very important to you. (a minute per person, if over 15, break in half)

Further Questions (20 minutes)
Use your best judgment about which questions to use based on your group. Don't try to ask all of these.

- What key aspects of your background influence your hopes or fears for the next several years?
- Where do you feel that your perspective differs from people who are similar to you?
- What are the most important priorities for you right now?
- What do you want to understand about the other points of view here?
- What do you want to make sure others have heard from you?

Closing Questions (10 minutes) (if the first question lasts less than three minutes, ask the second)

- Who is someone who you want to recognize for sharing something that impacted you today?
- What's something you heard today in a new way or hadn't thought of before today?