

Summary

The Civic Discourse Series would address the need of citizens able to hear the different viewpoints on a specific topic from Speakers from distinct and different perspectives. The Speakers bring in the subject area expertise on the topic, and they can be non-BA members. The intent of this format is to have the audience get a deeper understanding on an issue beyond the media one-liners, and to provide a platform to attract membership to Braver Angels

Rationale

Many of the problems that our local communities and the countries are facing are complex and cannot be explained away by one-liners fed by partisan media. Potential Solutions need perspectives from speakers who have done a lot of research and thinking on a topic. Braver Angels needs to create a platform on which speakers with such subject matter expertise come and share their knowledge and perspectives, and have the attendees enhance their perspectives and understandings in BA's trademark civic discourse culture.

Below is a suggested format for a Civic Discourse session:

First 30 minutes: Each Speaker gets 15-minutes each of uninterrupted time to lay the groundwork to share their perspectives

Next 60 minutes: The Moderator of the session would run a panel discussion taking audience questions and probing both the speakers arguments in order to get a deeper understanding

Outcomes to be driven

1. Deeper appreciation of the issue from both sides of the respective Speaker's perspectives. Increase the empathy map from both sides
2. Increase attendees confidence that civic discourse can progress solutions with common action
3. Attract more members through this outreach program

Measurement of success

1. Attendee Satisfaction metrics (conducted through post-event survey)
2. Increase in Membership numbers

Timed Agenda

Topic: IL Constitutional Amendment on income tax: remove flat tax requirement and allow graduated tax

Planned time for the event: Approximately 100 mins

Required Roles:

ZM - Zoom Event Manager (C Stone)

RM - Room Coordinators (JS)

Moderator, Assistant Moderator (TD, MM)

Organizer (MM)

Activity Timeline

Time	Topic	Process/Questions
T-30 minutes 5:30	Set Up	Organizer, ZM, Moderators, Speakers all gather to make sure technology is working. · ZM logs into Zoom and takes on “Host” role in Zoom; Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Organizer, Speakers are made Co-hosts · ZM to modify Chat controls so that everyone can chat with everyone. Have Poll1 and 2 prepared and know how to save or take screenshot
T-15	Zoom brief tutorial	ZM to describe briefly Zoom features (chat, rename, raise hand, other?)
T- 5 minutes 5:55	Release From Waiting room	Room Coordinators start releasing attendees from Zoom Waiting room. Should we have a message here that if comfortable with Google Docs, add G in front of name?

T mins (Formal Start of Event) 6:00	Welcome	Organizer opening remarks · Welcome to Braver Angels Civil Discourse · Topic for tonight · What is Braver Angels? (read mission statement) · Let audience know that recording to start once Moderator takes on the session and to end after the speaker talk ends. No recording in the breakout sessions - Put up Poll 1 (pre-poll) ZM puts up Poll1 and saves when done. · Introduce Moderator
T+5 mins 6:05	Agenda Review	Moderator · Screen shares and reviews agenda and ground rules ZFM · Asks participants to rename themselves (Y for lean yes, N for lean no, U for undecided—then –name. For example: “U-Jim Jones”)—note: Room Coordinators (RMs) scan participants for renaming, help those who are having difficulty— - ZM turns on recording in the Zoom session - ZM starts configuring breakout groups making sure there is a balance of participants belonging to Y,N,U. RM adds * to those comfortable with Google Docs (or ask those renaming selves to add “G” for that purpose?
T+10 6:10	Speaker Introduction	Moderator introduces Speaker 1 and Speaker 2
T+15 6:15	Reasons to vote Yes	Speaker 1 speaks
T+25 6:25	Reasons to vote No	Speaker 2 speaks
T+35	Rebuttal 1	Speaker 1 speaks

6:35		
T+40 6:40	Rebuttal 2	Speaker 2 speaks
T+45 6:45	Breakout Room Instructions	Moderator screen shares “breakout room instructions” and answers questions participants may have. Moderator to remind participants to type the speaker questions they come up in the breakout rooms in the Google Document that ZM is going to share in the Chat. ZM chats reflection question and the link to the Google Document so that they can be seen in breakout rooms ZM sets 20 mins time in breakout room settings ZM implements breakout rooms
T+60 7:00	Breakout Rooms	ZM flashes 5’ remaining/reconvening time message into breakout rooms
T+65 7:05	Sharing of Learnings	Moderator welcomes everyone back. Participants complete writing their group’s 2 Speaker questions into the Google document Speaker 1 and Speaker 2 review questions that are framed in the shared Google Doc Moderator asks participants to share something they learned from the speaker “on the other side” of their thinking (with no “buts”, just appreciation) RM to help Moderator identify the participants who raised their hand or by chat to share
T+70 7:10	Q and A	Asst Moderator asks speakers the questions
		We have enough time to extend the Q&A if needed to 7:35
T+85 7:25	Closing remarks	Moderator retakes control Speaker 1 2min
T+87 7:27	Closing remarks	Speaker 2 2 min

T+89 7:29	Wrap Up	Moderator thanks speakers, asks for jazz hands; asks participants to take Poll2. ZM posts poll. Moderator asks participants to complete evaluation; ZM has chatted link to evaluation. Link to Evaluation Form. Sample form: https://forms.gle/bzGcgA3KyFpacgu26 Moderator asks “What is one thing you are taking away from our conversation tonight?” (1 sentence)—do this for 5 minutes Assistant Moderator to help Moderator identify the participants who raised their hand or by chat to ask a question
T+95 mins	Ending	Organizer thanks everyone for attending and invites a BA in the audience (Chuck?) to give them Braver Angels pitch, relating a personal experience. ZM should put the link to join in chat first. Then, “we’d like to take a “Class Picture”. If you don’t want to be in the picture, you can drop off the call now. Thank you!”
T+100 mins	Close Zoom Room	
T+105		debrief?