



# LEAVING MAGA

## ***LEAVING MAGA'S GUIDE ON HOW TO TALK TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN MAGA***

We believe most MAGA followers are good and decent people who have lost their way and been led astray; even intelligent people, with integrity, are susceptible to being manipulated and exploited. I'm of the belief that most MAGA Americans will reach a point at which doubts do commence; the complication is what to do next, and that's where Leaving MAGA comes in.

As you begin the process of reaching out, separate your love and respect for the person from your opposition to Trump. Think about your relationship with them before MAGA.

Remember, how we interact is key; acknowledging another's beliefs does not mean concurrence or

acceptance. The purpose isn't to polemicize; it's to dialogue.

For example, you'll get nowhere if you refer to MAGA as a cult, even if you believe it fits the definition of the word. People will shut down.

Instead, try something unexpected. You could ask what their values and beliefs were prior to Trump. You could ask what it would take to change their mind; if they might be overlooking pertinent facts; if their worldview might be a bit too black-and-white for a multicolored world.

Relatability can be found here, as all of us have our own blind spots. Here are some key guideposts:

1. Search for relatability, personally, or, perhaps, politically. Seek common ground. If you're able to have a long-enough conversation with someone in MAGA, you will find that there is some agreement on important issues.
2. Don't attack; try to understand why they believe what they do. You don't have to agree. Those with whom we differ are not our enemies. One of the reasons we are so polarized is because of a phobia that hearing out beliefs we disagree with means we are accepting and defending them. Don't think of this as trying to change someone's mind, because a mind is not changed in a singular conversation. If you hear something you know is inaccurate, ask: where did you hear that? Get them thinking about the sources of information they consume.
3. Ask permission to introduce the possibility of reconciliation with family and friends. Ask them to think about their lives and their relationships before Trump and MAGA.

4. Rather than debating facts and policy, open up a respectful back-and-forth by asking something such as: “I understand some of the reasons why you want another Trump presidency. Do you understand some of the reasons why others don’t want another Trump presidency?”

This question presents an idea that the Trump supporter may never have had; continue to gently probe their beliefs without being confrontational. This potentially opens doors that had been previously shut.

5. After you feel you’ve made some progress (this will likely take a lot more than a single conversation), ask for their consent to introduce the work and stories of Leaving MAGA. You may feel the MAGA American in your life is racist, homophobic, or unpatriotic. But saying these things will not compel them to leave MAGA. The way to start creating doubt — the necessary precursor to becoming empowered to leave MAGA — is through empathy and education.

We hope you’ll consider making a tax-deductible gift to Leaving MAGA. Your generosity will help us expand our efforts to empower others to leave the movement.

To make a tax-deductible gift, please visit:

<https://leavingmaga.org/donate/>

Thank you, on behalf of Leaving MAGA.