Conversation Guide: Race and Ethnicity Series
Conversation 3: Wrap Up

Living Room Conversations offers a simple, sociable and structured way to practice communicating across differences while building understanding and relationships. Typically, 4-6 people meet in person or by video call for about 90 minutes to listen to and be heard by others on one of our nearly 100 topics. Rather than debating or convincing others, we take turns talking to share, learn, and be curious. No preparation is required, though background links with balanced views are available on some topic pages online. Anyone can host using these italicized instructions. Hosts also participate.

I. Introductions: Why We’re Here (~10 minutes)
Each participant has 1 minute to introduce themselves.

● What are you looking forward to in this final conversation on race and ethnicity?

II. Conversation Agreements: How We’ll Engage (~5 minutes)
These will set the tone of our conversation; participants may volunteer to take turns reading them aloud.

● Be curious and listen to understand. Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. You might enjoy exploring how others’ experiences have shaped their values and perspectives.

● Show respect and suspend judgment. People tend to judge one another. Setting judgement aside opens you up to learning from others and makes them feel respected and appreciated. Try to truly listen, without interruption or crosstalk.

● Note any common ground as well as any differences. Look for areas of agreement or shared values that may arise and take an interest in the differing beliefs and opinions of others.

● Be authentic and welcome that from others. Share what’s important to you. Speak from your experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.

● Be purposeful and to the point. Do your best to keep your comments concise and relevant to the question you are answering. Be conscious of sharing airtime with other participants.

● Own and guide the conversation. Take responsibility for the quality of your participation and the conversation as a whole. Be proactive in getting yourself and others back on track if needed. Use an agreed upon signal like the “time out” sign if you feel the agreements are not being honored.

III. Question Rounds: What We’ll Talk About
Optional: a participant can keep track of time and gently let people know when their time has elapsed.

Since this is a wrap-up conversation, we will only have two question rounds rather than the standard three rounds.

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Round One: What have we learned about Race & Ethnicity? (~40 min)

One participant can volunteer to read this paragraph.

The ability to have meaningful conversations on Race and Ethnicity will be instrumental in developing a society that reflects the multi-faceted population of this country. However, this skill is not taught in schools, nor is it easily acquired. Unless one is part of a diverse community comprised of members willing to intentionally share their experiences with one another for mutual growth, most people will not have deep exposure to these conversations. The purpose of this conversation series is to help participants increase their capacity to engage in discussions that many typically experience as polarizing.

Take ~2 minutes each to answer a question below without interruption or crosstalk. After everyone has answered, the group may take a few minutes for clarifying or follow up questions/responses. Continue exploring additional questions as time allows.

- In this conversation series, we’ve had two extensive conversations on race and ethnicity. What, if anything, have you been dwelling on or wrestling with from those conversations?
- Who, if anyone, would you have liked to bring into the previous conversations and why?
- Who, if anyone, have you told about participating in these conversations? If no one, why not? If you have told anyone, what were some of their responses and how did they make you feel?
- Is there anything that you learned from the previous two conversations, that has changed the way you view the value of having conversations on race and ethnicity?
- What emotions come up for you as you think of having future conversations on this subject with others who do not share your point of view?
- Has participation in this cohort shifted your perception of your own personal racial and ethnic narrative in any way?
- Is there anything you’ve been wanting to ask another member of the group but did not feel comfortable doing so?

Round Two: Reflection & Next Steps (~10 min)

Take 2 minutes to answer one of the following questions:

- In one sentence, share what was most meaningful / valuable to you in the experience of this Living Room Conversation.
- What is one important thing you thought was accomplished here?
- Is there a next step you would like to take based upon the conversation you just had?
- Are there any resources that you would like to share with the group to support their efforts in creating capacity for these types of conversations?

Closing (~5 min)

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Thank you!

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