



# The WHY

## TOPICS ± OCCASIONS FOR DIALOGUE



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### Part I. What's a conversation you feel driven to make happen?

#### EXPLORING A CONCEPT

Is there an particular idea, school of thought, skill, or methodology that you would like to introduce to others, understand better yourself, and/or practice?

*EXAMPLES: Black feminism. Crip time. Democracy. Inclusive freedom. Hostile architecture. Anti-racist pedagogy. Descriptive grammar. Creationism. Deep listening. Universal design. (etc)*

#### UNPACKING A SOCIAL ISSUE OR MOVEMENT

Is there a social issue of pressing concern to you that you would like to think through, whether intellectually, personally, or politically? (Scale can be local, national, global.)

*EXAMPLES: Gun violence. LGBTQIA+ rights. Climate change. White nationalism. Cancel culture. Income inequality. Indigenous sovereignty. #MeToo. Gerrymandering. Doping. (etc)*

#### PROCESSING A MEDIA OR CULTURAL EVENT

Has a specific event happened recently that you feel needs to be addressed, or is there a holiday or event going on that you'd like to create conversation around?

*EXAMPLES: The Buffalo shooting. Dobbs v. Jackson. The 20th anniversary of 9/11. Floods in Pakistan. Elections in Chile. Campus protests. AAPI History Month. Juneteenth. Pride. (etc)*

#### ENGAGING WITH A WORK OR PERSON OF INTEREST

Is there an artist, scholar, activist, professional, politician, or community member OR a text, artwork, monument, or archival artifact that you'd like to dialogue with or about?

*EXAMPLES: Loretta Ross. Borderlands/La Frontera by Gloria Anzaldúa. The U.S. Constitution. The short stories of Jhumpa Lahiri. The Dead Sea Scrolls. Jeff Bezos. The music of Blackpink. (etc)*

#### CONNECTING TO SELF, OTHER, PLACE, OR THE PAST

Would you like to create space for people to engage with self-reflection; intergroup exchange; place-based features/resources; or family/community/cultural histories?

*EXAMPLES: A "Where I'm From" poetry workshop. An interfaith dialogue. A critique of campus mental health resources. A nature retreat. A circle of community elders. A family colloquium. (etc)*





# The WHY

## DEFINING YOUR PURPOSE FOR DIALOGUE

Part II. What do you hope participants will *feel*, *think*, *know*, or *do* during or as a result of engaging in this conversation?



### FEEL...

### SAMPLE STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS

- Healing or comfort
- Hope or joy
- Love or empathy
- Inspiration
- Belonging or solidarity
- Responsibility
- Urgency or motivation
- Indignation or outrage

**CONCEPT:** Find **solidarity** in recognizing one's own experience or values reflected in [new theoretical framework]

**SOCIAL ISSUE:** Feel **hopeful** regarding the possibility of progress related to [social movement]

**EVENT:** Experience **healing** in the wake of [horrific event]

**PERSON/WORK:** Develop new **empathy** for a specific experience via engagement with [work of art]

**CONNECTIONS:** Feel **joy** in reflecting on [aspect of personal history]

### THINK OR KNOW

### SAMPLE STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS

- Self-awareness
- Other-awareness
- Issue-awareness
- Understand a perspective
- Understand a history
- Understand a theory
- Change their mind

**CONCEPT:** Understand key terms and major ideas of [given theory]

**SOCIAL ISSUE:** Develop initial awareness of how [longstanding social issue] manifests in present day (i.e. historical awareness)

**EVENT:** Understand the various different reactions (i.e. perspectives) to [event]

**PERSON/WORK:** Become convinced of the importance of [particular person]'s influence (i.e. change their mind)

**CONNECTIONS:** Grow a sense of self-awareness of one's own positionality within [particular community]

### DO

### SAMPLE STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS

- Access a resource
- Forge a relationship
- Make a personal plan
- Change a habit
- Take political action
- Join a specific group
- Spread a message
- Create something new

**CONCEPT:** Apply [new methodology] in practice in professional or academic context (i.e. spread the message)

**SOCIAL ISSUE:** Make a plan for how each person will address [issue] personally, professionally, or politically

**EVENT:** Seek out additional info (i.e. access a resource) about [specific event]

**PERSON/WORK:** Join a book club dedicated to similar works

**CONNECTIONS:** Do more journaling to continue [particular kind of self-reflection] (i.e. change a habit)