

Conversation Café: Quick How-To



Conversation Café Agreements

- **Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view.
- **Acceptance:** Suspend judgment as best you can.
- **Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade.
- **Discovery:** Question assumptions, look for new insights.
- **Sincerity:** Speak from your heart and personal experience.
- **Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.

Conversation Café Process

Assemble up to 8 people plus host, hearty topic, a talking object, and time (60-90 min.). Host explains process and agreements.

Round 1: Pass around the talking object; each person speaks briefly to the topic, no feedback or response.

Round 2: Again with talking object, each person deepens their own comments or speaks to what has meaning now.

Dialogue: Open, spirited conversation. Use talking object if there is domination, contention, or lack of focus.

Final Round: With talking object, each person says briefly what challenged, touched or inspired them.

Questions To Go Deeper

- What happened that led you to this point of view?
- How does this affect you personally?
- I'm curious, can you say more about that...
- Here's what I heard...is that what you mean?

*NOTE: Download the **The Complete Hosting Manual** to print out a slightly expanded version of this information. Visit the Topics page at www.ncdd.org/conversationcafe for more information about crafting questions.*

Congratulations! Choosing to host a conversation provides a powerful way to make a difference in our world, to build community, and to enhance collective intelligence. Plus, it offers you a stimulating opportunity for learning and growth.