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“DEMOS dialogue script:”

Topic from card here _____

(We suggest choosing a topic in agreement with the participants - what topic interests them the most? What would they like to discuss? What concerns them the most right now in relation to democracy? etc.)

Start

Welcome to the DEMOS Dialogue. Our topic for the dialogue is (read from the card). My name is ... and I will facilitate this dialogue. I will lead the conversation by giving turns to speak and if need be I can also limit speaking time in order to make sure everyone's voice gets heard.

The purpose of this dialogue is to learn from one another and listen to each participant's point of view and experiences of the topic. The intention is not to argue or convince others about our own views, but rather to allow room for different perspectives and build a deeper understanding of the topic, of yourself and others. Therefore it is important that everyone is heard. We do not have to reach unanimity or resolving anything or make a decision. We can simply focus on having a dialogue.

Introductions

Now it would be great to hear who we have here as participants. Let's do a brief round of introductions. Please briefly present yourself using your first name and share one thing you love about or town or share a hobby or interest you enjoy. You can keep it brief. Let's start here to my left and go from there.

After the round: Thank you and once more a warm welcome to everyone!

DEMOS Ground rules for a constructive dialogue

Before we start our dialogue, let's go over the DEMOS ground rules for a constructive dialogue. You can see them here in front of you on the paper. We will go through them together.



1. Listen to others, do not interrupt or start additional discussions.

“Everyone must have the opportunity to explain their views in peace. It is important that we do not interrupt each other or whisper with the person next to us.”

2. Share your own thoughts and experiences.

“To be able to better understand the issue discussed and each other, it is a good idea to talk about our own thoughts and experiences. This means that we tell others what issues, events and situations have affected our views.”

3. Respect the other participants.

“Let's respect different people and the different views people have. Let's be aware and considerate of different emotions and possible unspoken power dynamics.”

4. Consider things in peace and relate what you say to what others have said.

“You don't need to have the right answers. Dialogue is about being curious and about thinking about different issues together. We do not need to reach unanimity or solutions.”

5. Be present and respect the confidentiality of the dialogue.

“In a dialogue, it is important to concentrate on each other and on the issue, so let's keep the mobiles and laptops stored away. Let's keep the conversation confidential so that everyone can talk as freely as possible. You can share your own thoughts forward but if you want to share someone else's, ask them for permission.”

6. Be open to change.

“Dialogue can move us. It can create new insights and make us change our points of view. It can encourage us to act and discuss the issue forward with other people. Good things can happen and DEMOS Dialogue is a way to start!”

Can we all commit to these rules for the duration of our dialogue? Perfect! Let's continue.

Tune in / introduction

So the topic of our discussion is: Read the chosen topic from the DEMOS card.

I will now read the definition of our topic and we can then proceed from there. So, the definition is as follows (please read the definition twice slowly): see the definition from the card

So I just read the definition of our topic. My question to you is: (read first question from the card)

Please take a minute to think about my question.
You can write your thoughts on the paper next to your chair.
Then take a couple of minutes to share your first thoughts with the person next to you.





Joint dialogue begins

Great, a couple of minutes have passed. We can now continue together.

I asked you: Repeat the question

What came to your mind? Can you pick one of those thoughts and we can start our dialogue from there. Who would like to begin?

Thank you for sharing X. What about the rest of you? Did you have similar or different thoughts, please share.

Additional questions during the joint dialogue (see more question on the DEMOS card)

Insights (approx. 7-10 min before ending)

Thank you for this dialogue! Next, we will write the insights we gained in this discussion. Think of a few insights, feelings or thoughts that remained in your mind from the discussion. Did you get any new thoughts on the topic? Do you perhaps now think differently in regards to something? Write these on your paper. You have a couple of minutes to do this.

Now please pick one insight, feeling or thought you would like to briefly share with the group. Who would like to begin?

Closing

Now it is time to end our dialogue. Thank you all for participating!

Hopefully, we will get to continue our discussion at some later point.

Before we close, please fill out this anonymous feedback survey (show participants the QR code they can scan to complete the survey on their mobile phones, or provide them with a printed evaluation form to fill out on the spot).

Thank you!

