



One-on-One Conversation Guide

(based on Civity Conversations)

Building Civity is about creating a *relationship* with someone who is different. Civity interactions focus on authentic human connection - the head and the heart working together. You offer respect and understanding in the hope that they will be reciprocated.

Offering authenticity to another person who you don't know that well can be a little risky – you might feel a little uncomfortable – that's natural!

1) Begin the Conversation:

- Exchange greetings
- Give some of your background
- Invite the other person to introduce themselves
- *Go deeper* – Explain how you care about your community, and tell a short personal story about where that comes from.
 - This may feel risky as you are offering up a side of yourself that in most situations remains hidden.
- Invite the other person to reciprocate, to explain where their civic passion comes from.
 - Remember to truly listen to them.
- Thank them for sharing their story; it's a gift to you!

2) Deepen the Conversation:

- Explain that you'd like to explore/understand.
- Ask/invite the other person to tell you a story about difference. For example, ask, "How did you come to see the world the way you do?"
- Listen to the other person's story, being intentional about providing space for them to tell their story honestly and genuinely. Also be aware of your own story, through which you are listening.
- If it makes sense, share a story of your own that focuses on the difference.
- Thank them for sharing their story!

3) After the Conversation:

- Don't worry if the other person did most of the talking – that means you successfully created the space for that person to be heard!
- Reflect on what happened; think about bringing a Civity mindset to other conversations.