

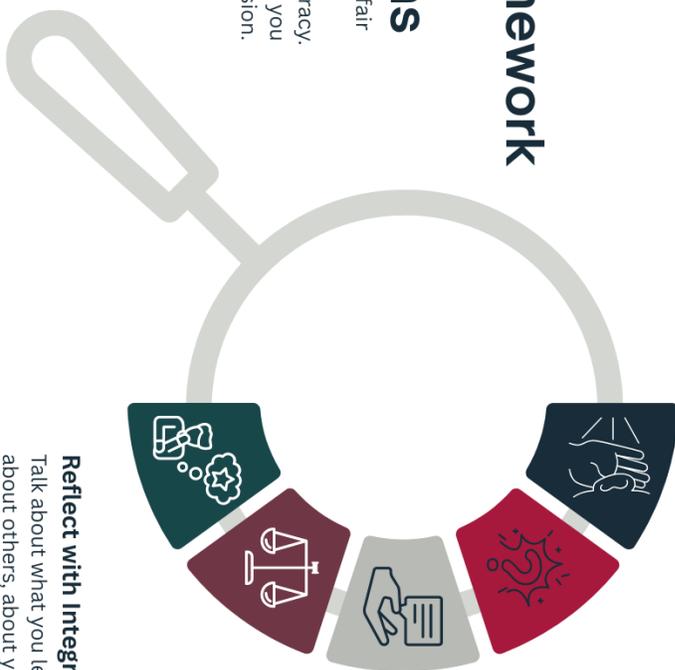


HOW TO HAVE A CONVERSATION

Lesson Plan for Grades 4-12

Jackson Framework for Civil Conversations

Robert H. Jackson believed that fair and respectful conversation is a foundation of justice and democracy. Use this framework to guide how you listen, speak, and think in discussion.



Listen to Understand

Focus completely on the speaker. Don't plan your reply while someone else is talking. Listen for meaning, not just words.

Question with Curiosity

Ask thoughtful questions that help you understand others' experiences and reasoning. Curiosity builds bridges and uncovers shared values.

Respond with Reason

Share your perspective using facts, logic, and examples. Disagree respectfully and focus on ideas, not individuals.

Seek Fairness and Common Ground

Look for points of agreement or understanding, even when you disagree. Aim to learn from one another rather than "win".

Reflect with Integrity

Talk about what you learned from the conversation, about others, about yourself, about the topic, and about how dialogue shapes democracy.