



What's happening

Resources



A Practical Guide to Impossible Conversations

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The Art of Arguing




Thanksgiving
Hell

Taboo
Topics

The
statistics

Grow Up,
Bro

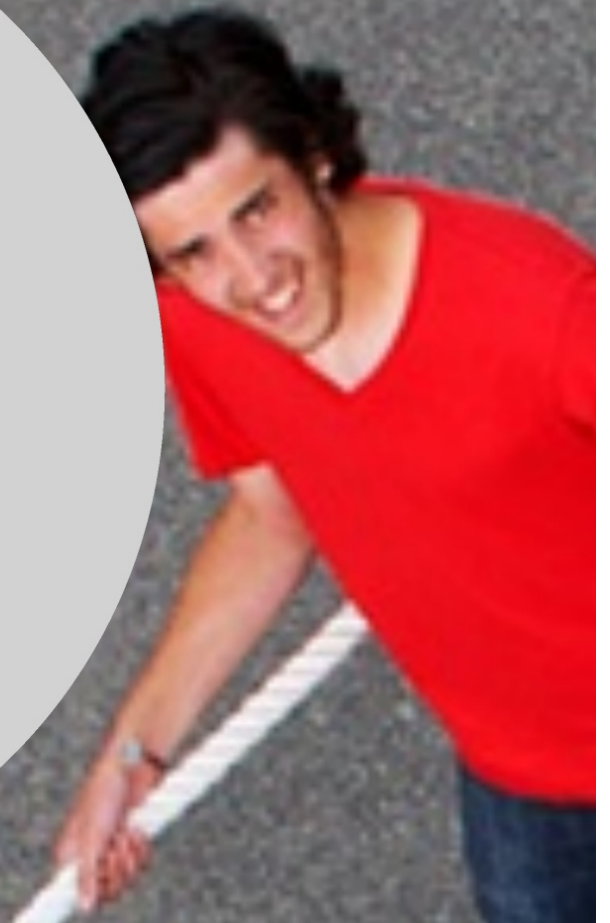



A photograph of a man with dark, curly hair wearing a red t-shirt, smiling as he paints a white line on a dark asphalt road. A large, semi-transparent grey circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially obscuring the man and the road. The text "After the 2016 Elections" is centered within this grey circle.

After the 2016 Elections

After the 2016 Elections

About me - Are you with us or against us?



A photograph of a man with dark, curly hair wearing a bright red t-shirt. He is leaning forward, using a white paint can to draw a thick white line on a dark asphalt road. The background is a textured grey surface. A large, light grey circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text. A white curved shape is visible in the bottom left corner.

After the 2016 Elections

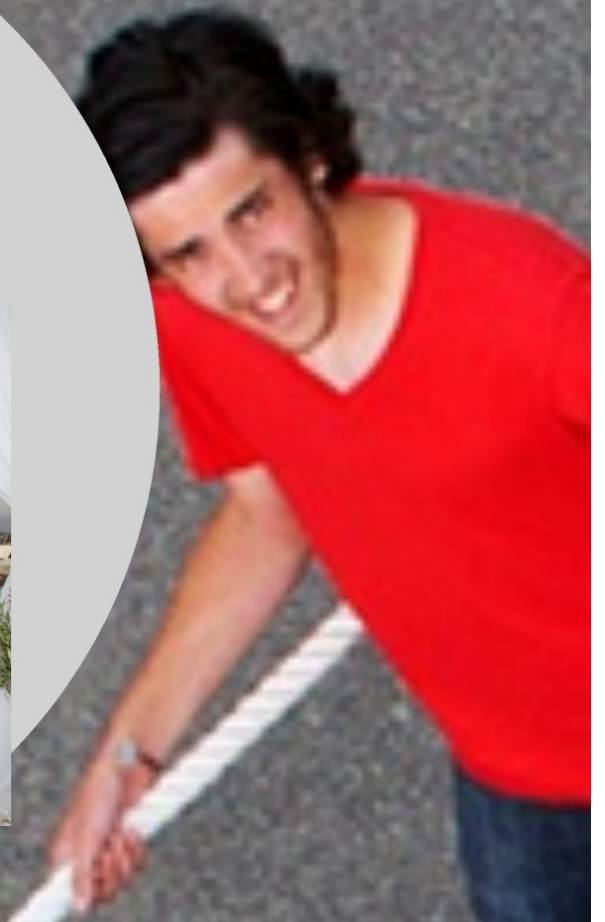
About me - Are you with us or against us?

About my family - the black sheep

After the 2016 Elections

About me - Are you with us or against us?

About my family - the black sheep



Taboo Topics

Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

A photograph of a man with dark, curly hair wearing a bright red V-neck shirt and blue jeans. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a grey asphalt surface with white painted lines. A large, semi-transparent grey circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and sub-topics.

Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee

Private Healthcare vs Public Healthcare

A background image of a smiling man with dark hair wearing a red V-neck shirt and blue jeans, leaning forward. A large light gray circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and list of topics.

Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee

Private Healthcare vs Public Healthcare

Citizen Rights vs Immigrant Rights



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee

Private Healthcare vs Public Healthcare

Citizen Rights vs Immigrant Rights

Climate Change



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee

Private Healthcare vs Public Healthcare

Citizen Rights vs Immigrant Rights

Religion

Climate Change



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

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Religion

Climate Change

Freedom vs Equality

The Stats

SHARE OF U.S. SOCIAL MEDIA USERS WHO OFTEN
DISCUSS POLITICS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AS OF 2016

7%

SHARE OF U.S. SOCIAL MEDIA USERS WHO NEVER
DISCUSS POLITICS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AS OF 2016

50%

SHARE OF U.S. SOCIAL MEDIA USERS WHOSE
FACEBOOK FRIENDS HAD MOSTLY SIMILAR POLITICAL
BELIEFS AS OF 2016

23%

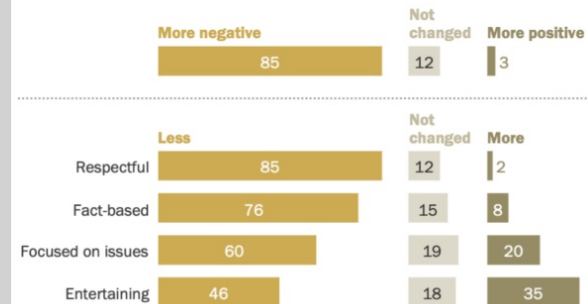
And...

Why it's
important

What's happening

Most Americans say political debate in the U.S. has become less respectful, fact-based, substantive

% who say over the last several years the tone and nature of political debate in this country has become ...



% who say Donald Trump has changed the tone and nature of political debate in the U.S. ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 29-May 13, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**BEING TAUGHT TO AVOID TALKING
ABOUT POLITICS AND RELIGION
HAS LED TO A LACK OF
UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS AND
RELIGION.**



**WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN
TAUGHT WAS HOW TO HAVE A
CIVIL CONVERSATION ABOUT A
DIFFICULT TOPIC.**



A N O N Y M O U S

**This is how we
argue now**







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A photograph of a man and a woman on a grey asphalt surface. The man, on the left, is wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, and is pulling on a white rope. The woman, on the right, is wearing a pink and blue top and is also pulling on the same rope. A large white circle is superimposed over the image, partially obscuring the man and the rope. The text "An argument" is written in bold black font inside the white circle.

An argument

A photograph of a man and a woman playing tennis on a grey asphalt court. The man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, is in the upper left, swinging a tennis racket. The woman, wearing a pink and blue athletic top, is in the lower left, also swinging a racket. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

A photograph of a man and a woman playing tennis on a grey asphalt court. The man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, is in the upper left, swinging a tennis racket. The woman, wearing a pink and blue athletic top, is in the lower left, also swinging a racket. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

Flat Earthers

A photograph of a man and a woman playing tennis on a grey asphalt court. The man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, is in the upper left, swinging a tennis racket. The woman, wearing a pink and blue athletic top, is in the lower left, also swinging a racket. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

Flat Earthers

Stop trying to win

A photograph of a man and a woman playing tennis on a grey asphalt court. The man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, is in the upper left, swinging a tennis racket. The woman, wearing a pink and blue athletic top, is in the lower left, also swinging a racket. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

Flat Earthers

Stop trying to win

Seek Understanding

A man in a yellow shirt and a woman in a pink shirt are playing tennis on a grey court. The man is in the foreground, leaning forward, and the woman is in the background, also leaning forward. A large white circle is overlaid on the image, containing text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

Flat Earthers

Stop trying to win

Seek Understanding

Assume good-intent, different values

A man in a yellow shirt and a woman in a pink shirt are playing tennis on a grey court. The man is in the foreground, leaning forward with his racket, and the woman is in the background, also with her racket. A large white circle is overlaid on the image, containing text.

An argument

We cannot control the other person

Flat Earthers

Stop trying to win

Seek Understanding

Assume good-intent, different values

Freedom vs Equality



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Our Beliefs and Values

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Growing up gay in a small town

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Growing up gay in a small town

Shaped by our community and the people closest to us

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Growing up gay in a small town

Shaped by our community and the people closest to us

Who shaped how you think? How?

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Growing up gay in a small town

Shaped by our community and the people closest to us

Who shaped how you think? How?

Don't insult that

Confirmation
Bias



Our Beliefs and Values

Shaped by our experiences

Growing up gay in a small town

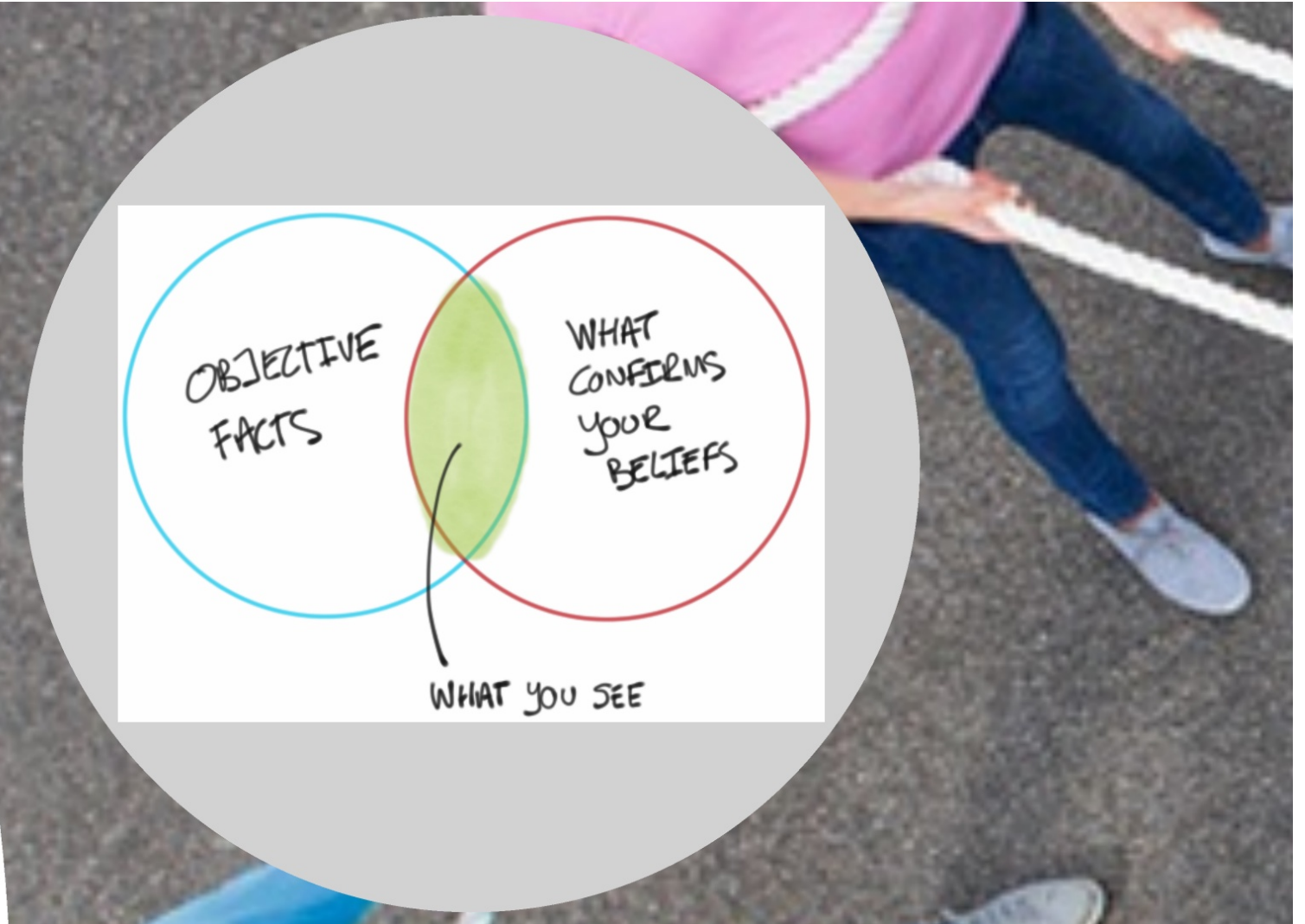
Shaped by our community and the people closest to us

Who shaped how you think? How?

Don't insult that

Do NOT assume your conversation partner is stupid, uninformed, or ignorant

Confirmation Bias





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A background image showing a group of people participating in a rope climbing activity. They are on a grey asphalt surface, holding onto thick white ropes. One person in a pink shirt and blue pants is visible in the upper left, and another in a pink shirt and blue pants is visible in the lower left. A large white circle is overlaid on the center of the image.

The Basics

See it in
action

Example

A background image showing a group of people from a high angle, pulling on thick white ropes that are laid out on a grey asphalt surface. The ropes are arranged in a grid-like pattern, and the people's hands and legs are visible as they pull. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and the first point.

The Basics

1. Goals - why?

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries
3. Rapport - maintain good connection

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries
3. Rapport - maintain good connection
4. Listen - Listen more, talk less

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries
3. Rapport - maintain good connection
4. Listen - Listen more, talk less
5. Don't deliver your truth

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries
3. Rapport - maintain good connection
4. Listen - Listen more, talk less
5. Don't deliver your truth
6. Remember good intentions

See it in
action

Example



The Basics

1. Goals - why?
2. Partnerships - not adversaries
3. Rapport - maintain good connection
4. Listen - Listen more, talk less
5. Don't deliver your truth
6. Remember good intentions
7. Walk away

See it in
action

Example


Heineken Commercial



I've experienced homelessness, I've known what it is like to have absolutely nothing.




I've experienced homelessness, I've known what it is like to have absolutely nothing.



**Great, so I can tolerate
Aunt Barb or Stephen in
front of Trader Joe's**


A Bit
Heavier



**Great, so I can tolerate
Aunt Barb or Stephen in
front of Trader Joe's**

Works in relationships

A Bit
Heavier



**Great, so I can tolerate
Aunt Barb or Stephen in
front of Trader Joe's**

Works in relationships

Works with students

A Bit
Heavier

**Great, so I can tolerate
Aunt Barb or Stephen in
front of Trader Joe's**

Works in relationships

Works with students

Works with Admin

A Bit
Heavier





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Steps to Productive Conversation

See it

You
try



Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling

See it

You
try

A high-angle photograph of several people participating in a team-building exercise where they are pulling on a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. The scene is set on a dark asphalt surface with white painted lines.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words

See it

You
try

The background of the slide is a photograph showing a group of people from a high angle, participating in a team-building exercise where they are climbing a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and the first step of the process. Two smaller grey circles are on the right side, containing the next two steps.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions

See it

You
try

A high-angle photograph of several people participating in a team-building exercise where they are climbing a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt. Overlaid on this image is a large white circle containing text, and two smaller grey circles to the right.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions
4. Acknowledge Extremists

See it

You
try

A high-angle photograph of several people participating in a team-building exercise where they are climbing a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt. Overlaid on this image are a large white circle on the left and two smaller grey circles on the right.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions
4. Acknowledge Extremists
5. Navigating Social Media

See it

You
try



Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions
4. Acknowledge Extremists
5. Navigating Social Media
6. Discuss Contributions, avoid blame

See it

You
try

A high-angle photograph of several people participating in a team-building exercise where they are climbing a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions
4. Acknowledge Extremists
5. Navigating Social Media
6. Discuss Contributions, avoid blame
7. Focus on epistemology

See it

You
try

A high-angle photograph of several people participating in a team-building exercise where they are climbing a thick white rope. The participants are wearing blue athletic wear. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt.

Steps to Productive Conversation

1. Modeling
2. Words
3. Ask Questions
4. Acknowledge Extremists
5. Navigating Social Media
6. Discuss Contributions, avoid blame
7. Focus on epistemology

8. Learn

See it

You
try



Taboo Topics

Pro-life vs Pro-choice

Gun Rights vs Gun Laws

Business vs Employee

Private Healthcare vs Public Healthcare

Citizen Rights vs Immigrant Rights

Climate Change

Religion

Freedom vs Equality

Topics

Level 1

Dogs vs Cats
Android vs iPhone
Coffee vs Tea
Beer vs Wine
Dine In vs Delivery
Book vs Ebook

Perfect Teeth vs Perfect Hair
Antique vs Brand New
Hot Coffee vs Iced Coffee
Mountains vs Beach
Sunset vs Sunrise

Level 2

Working Alone vs On A Team
Toilet Paper: Over vs Under
Call vs Text
Save vs Spend
Marry Then Move In vs Live-In Relationship Before Marriage
Abstinence vs Sex Before Marriage

Level 3

Pro-Life vs Pro-Choice
Tax-cuts vs Government programs
Immigrant rights vs Citizen rights
Religion vs LGBTQ marriage
Me too movement
Black Lives Matter
Policing of minorities



What's happening

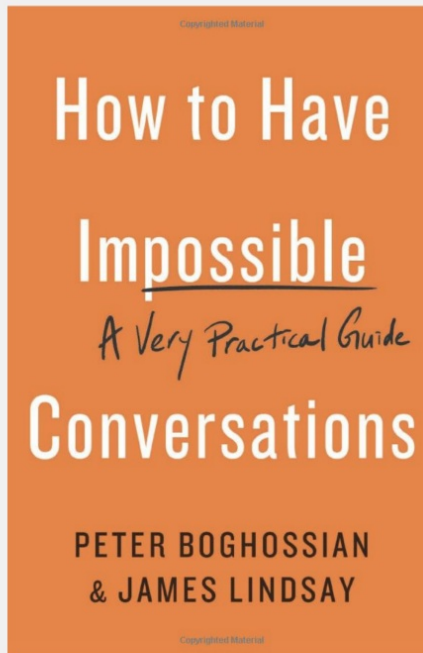
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