

Talking About Talking: Communication across divides

The purpose of this workshop is to consider and practice effective communication across the many large and small issues that divide us.



We will together explore the variety of ways we talk to each other and what makes those conversations effective. We will suggest guidelines for effective communication and put them into practice. We will look into internet conversations on public media, the relationship between talking and texting and intergenerational conversations. We will practice conversational skills on scheduled controversial topics. We will critique campaign speech and explore effective political conversation. We can even consider the ingredients of a successful LIR seminar conversation, in person, on zoom or hybrid. Other topics and approaches are welcome. The inspiration for this program was a four-week winter 2024 program of the same name ~ upon completion, we felt it was important to keep on talking!

Each participant will be responsible for

- choosing a specific area for exploration for one session
- informing fellow participants of the topic or activity a week in advance
- assigning a short reading if desired, and
- facilitating the conversation during that session

About the moderators: Francie has moderated several Writing to Remember groups and seminars in which participants are collectively engaged. Martha, a retired librarian, participated in the winter 2024 Talking About Talking program.

Seminar Time and Place: Wednesday mornings on Zoom.

Some in-person meetings might be possible during the semester depending on desires and willingness of participants.

Contact for Moderators:

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To be a good citizen, it is necessary to be warmhearted, but it is also necessary to master the disciplines, methods and techniques required to live well together: how to listen well, how to ask for and offer forgiveness, how not to misunderstand one another, how to converse in a way that reduces inequalities of respect. In a society with so much loneliness and distrust, we are failing at these social and moral disciplines.

~ David Brooks, NYT 5/10/2024



