

CORNERSTONE 2020 RESOURCE

Communicating Across Difference *[Evening Experience]*

AUTHOR(S):	Jill Goldstein Smith
SUMMARY:	What, if any, are the roles and responsibilities of American Jews toward Israel? Let's stop talking about talking about Israel – let's dive in and do it. Rather than running away from conflicting views, we will gather around the table with people who may have different views or backgrounds than our own. Our goal will be to create a conversation in which we can come to express, listen to, and learn from each other while exploring charged issues that matter to us. (This session is inspired by the organization Resetting the Table.) - <i>Submitted by Jill Goldstein Smith</i>
TOPIC(S):	Communication, Israel, Difficult Conversations
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will experience confronting differences and issues that matter most to them, and will be presented with others' opinions that may be very different than their own.
AUDIENCE:	No more than 15 adults
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	N/A
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Pens & Pads, and a Comfortable Seat, for each individual
SET-UP DETAILS:	Chairs in a circle (optionally around a table), in a quiet/private space

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- 00:00 - 00:05 Welcome
- 00:05 - 00:10 Framing & Ground Rules
- 00:10 - 00:20 Life Map Activity
- 00:20 - 01:10 Conversation Across Differences
- 01:10 - 01:15 Gratitude Share

00:00 - 00:05 Welcome

Give folks some time to arrive and settle in.

00:05 - 00:10 Framing & Ground Rules

Review ground rules of stable space, facilitator role, confidentiality, honesty.

00:10 - 00:20 Life Map Activity

Have participants sit in trios or pairs. Explain: we've each had moments in our lives that have helped shape our view of the world, our priorities, what we believe matters most. Take 3 minutes to sketch three moments in your life that have impacted your relationship with Israel. After 3 minutes, invite each participant to share *one* of the three moments with the others in their group.

00:20 - 01:10 Conversation Across Differences

Lead a facilitated conversation stemming from the prompt: What are American Jews' roles and responsibilities, if any, vis a vis Israel?

01:10 - 01:15 Gratitude Share

As a wrap-up, even though the conversation could definitely continue, ask participants to go around in the circle and share (no more than one non-run-on sentence) of something they are grateful for or taking away or still thinking about from this conversation.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

This model could be used for almost any charged topic around differences.