The Generations Table

A kitchen-table conversation for two generations. You do not have to agree. You have to understand.

NEW TO THIS? START HERE

Two people can love each other and still see the world very differently. This card is not about winning. It is about understanding. You will each try to explain the other person's view so fairly that they say, 'Yes, that's it.' No experience needed, just two chairs, a pencil and about thirty minutes.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Put the phones in another room. This only works face to face.
2. Choose one question together. Start small: a town question, not a national one.
3. Each of you says, in one sentence, which way you lean.
4. In your own column, write the OTHER person's best reason. Read it aloud. Keep revising until they say, "Yes, that's exactly why."
5. Each of you names one thing you agree with and one thing you learned.

THREE RULES FOR A FAIR ARGUMENT

- Describe their view so fairly they would thank you for it.
- Name one thing you agree with, even a small one.
- Name one thing you learned from them.

Rules the philosopher Daniel Dennett credited to the mathematician Anatol Rapoport.

PICK A QUESTION

- ☐ Should the middle school ban phones for the whole school day?
- ☐ Should the Fourth of July fireworks become a drone light show?
- ☐ Should Main Street close to cars on Saturdays?
- ☐ Our own question: _____

FIRST PERSON

My name _____

I lean _____

My best case for YOUR side

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

You said ☐ Yes, that's it ☐ Close ☐ Not yet

One thing I agree with

_____

_____

One thing I learned from you

_____

_____

SECOND PERSON

My name _____

I lean _____

My best case for YOUR side

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

You said ☐ Yes, that's it ☐ Close ☐ Not yet

One thing I agree with

_____

_____

One thing I learned from you

_____

_____

Try it on screen first: Two Feeds, One Town, at globalsovereignuniversity.org/fractured-words

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