

Dialogue: Agreements and Process

Agreements:

- Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view.
- Acceptance:** Suspend judgement as best you can.
- Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade.
- Discovery:** Question assumptions, look for new insights.
- Sincerity:** Speak what has personal heart and meaning.
- Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.

The Conversationcafe organization also provides the following tips for organizing a successful event:

- Assemble up to 8 people plus a host: agree on a hearty topic, find a talking object, and set a time (60 - 90 minutes). The host explains the process and agreements.
- **Round 1:** Pass around the talking object; each person speaks briefly to the topic, no feedback or response.
- **Round 2:** Again with the talking object, each person deepens their own comments or speaks to what has meaning now.
- **Dialogue:** Open, spirited conversation. Use talking object if there is domination, contention, or lack of focus.
- **Final Round:** With talking object, each person says briefly what was meaningful to them.

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