



# The HOW

## STRUCTURES FOR DIALOGUE

Through which formats and modes will participants perform the actions that will help them realize your purpose?

### CONSIDERATIONS

**PURPOSE + OBJECTIVES.** Select formats + modes that align with both your purpose (what you want participants to experience in a holistic sense) and your objectives (the actions that will get them there step-by-step). Different structures may be appropriate for different objectives.

**YOUR STYLE + COMFORT LEVEL.** Stay within or just beyond your comfort zone, especially if you are new to facilitating, the topic is particularly high-stakes, and/or the group is (potentially) challenging. Some self-consciousness is inevitable, but too much affects the dialogue process.

**PARTICIPANTS' NEEDS + INTERESTS.** Consider participants' identities, vocations, education levels, ideologies, and familiarity with the topic, with each other, and with dialogue. Often, more structured approaches are better for higher-risk topics and/or less established groups.

**EQUITY + INCLUSION + ACCESSIBILITY.** No matter how well people know each other or the subject matter, or how prepared for dialogue you believe they are, strive to include a few different formats + modes (or options!) so that folks are able to engage to their fullest ability.

### SAMPLE FORMATS ACCORDING TO MODE



#### ORAL FORMATS

- A sharing circle (5-15 people)
- Small groups of 3-4 people
- Pair conversations (w/ same partner or alternating)
- Role play
- Lecture + audience Q&A
- A moderated panel discussion + audience Q&A
- Interview



#### VISUAL FORMATS

- Watercolor conversations in pairs ("speak" and respond to one another via abstract brushstrokes)
- Individuals each create a poster or abstract painting representing their ideas. Collect into a single "quilt."
- Individuals create a "brand profile" representing their views: representative fonts, colors, images, etc.
- Graphic dialogue (draw a comic strip together in pairs, or pass around a group as each person adds)
- **Hybrid:** Use a visual response code to express reactions to spoken comments via sign language



#### WRITTEN FORMATS

- Note-writing back and forth (or letters, postcards)
- Anonymous response collection (e.g. index cards)
- Post a prompt. People write responses to prompt & one another (digitally via e.g. Mural or on paper).
- Gallery walk: Post several prompts, artworks, texts, etc. at stations around the room. People circulate and pause at each station to write responses.
- Collaborative annotation in response to a text or work of art (digitally, via e.g. Perusall, or on paper)
- Journaling (dialogue with the self)
- **Hybrid:** jot thoughts down before sharing out



#### EMBODIED FORMATS

- Nonverbal role play in mime
- Mime responses to prompt
- Move around the room to established stations to reflect changing thoughts/attitude about the topic
- Body scan (dialogue w/ self)
- **Hybrid:** Use a code of signs to react to comments