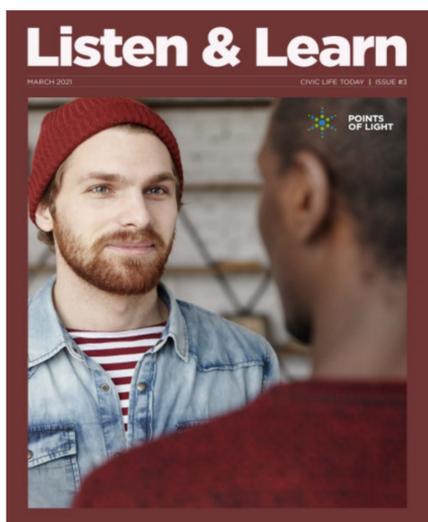


Civic Circle Discussion Series: *Listen & Learn*



Last weeks' discussion on Listen and Learn was our best yet, and definitely a favorite of the issues so far. We all agreed that this issue would have been better delivered and discussed before the Voice issue. It would have been beneficial to learn how to listen and learn from each other before we raise our voices for each other.

This issue urged readers to approach the unfamiliar, unsettling and sometimes frightening with an attitude of curiosity and active listening. Not everyone has the answer, but responses to your questions can be very informative, as well.

Some of our key takeaways from the Listen & Learn discussion were:



Don't assume, and overall, be curious!



Create an environment of safety and respect.



Changing someone's mind is scientifically, biologically and evolutionarily hard.



Before you can even hope to change a mind, it is helpful to listen and learn where that person is coming from.



If you feel yourself getting defensive because someone else expressed that they are feeling uncomfortable, focus on their emotion, not your defensiveness, to figure out the solution.

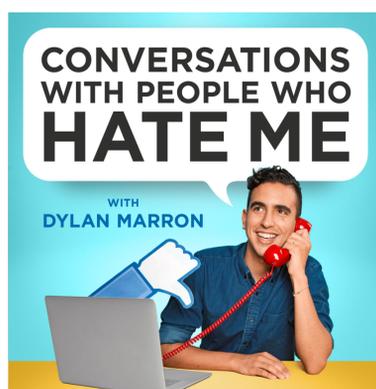


Remember, when discussing certain subjects, there's not always going to be a 'winner'.
Sometimes the value is in the discussion itself, rather than any results that may come from it.

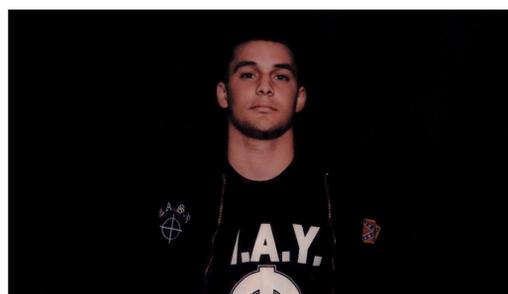


Know the human beneath the argument. It is important to remember that, no matter the topic, there's a person on the other end of the argument who deserves respect.

Additional Resources:



Conversations with People Who Hate Me
A Podcast By Dylan Marron



WHITE POWER
A Conversation with Christian Picciolini about his experience as a former neo-Nazi skinhead



Follow **@raindovemodel** on Instagram
an LGBTQ+ Activist who's an expert on framing 'better arguments'