

# Civil Conversations

## Rules for Civil Conversations

- (1) Read the text as if it were written by someone you really respected.
- (2) Everyone in the conversation group should participate in the conversation.
- (3) Listen carefully to what others are saying.
- (4) Ask clarifying questions if you do not understand a point raised.
- (5) Be respectful of what others are saying.
- (6) Refer to the text to support your ideas.
- (7) Focus on ideas, not personalities.

## Civic Conversation Reading Guide

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Read through the entire selection without stopping to think about any particular section. Pay attention to your first impression as to what the reading is about. Look for the main points, and then go back and re-read it. Briefly answer the following questions.

- 1) This selection is about \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The main points are:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In the reading, I agree with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) I disagree with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What are two questions about this reading that you think need to be discussed?  
(The best questions are ones that have no simple answers, ones that can use materials in the text as evidence.)  
*The next two questions should be answered after you hold your civil conversation.*
- 6) What did you learn from the civil conversation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What common ground did you find with other members of the group? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_