



Handout 1—Deliberation Guide

What Is Deliberation?

Deliberation is the focused exchange of ideas and the analysis of multiple views with the aim of making a personal decision and finding areas of agreement within a group.

Why Are We Deliberating?

People must be able and willing to express and exchange ideas among themselves, with community leaders, and with their representatives in government. People and public officials in a democracy need skills and opportunities to engage in civil public discussion of controversial issues in order to make informed policy decisions. Deliberation requires keeping an open mind, as this skill enables people to reconsider a decision based on new information or changing circumstances.

What Are the Rules for Deliberation?

- Read the material carefully.
- Focus on the deliberation question.
- Listen carefully to what others are saying.
- Understand and analyze what others are saying.
- Speak and encourage others to speak.
- Refer to the reading to support your ideas.
- Use relevant background knowledge, including life experiences, in a logical way.
- Remain engaged and respectful when controversy arises.



Handout 2—Deliberation Notes

The Deliberation Question:

Review the reading and in your group determine at least three of the most important facts and/or interesting ideas. Ask about any terms that are unclear.

| Reasons to Support the Question - YES | Reasons to Oppose the Question - NO |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | |



Handout 3—Deliberation Reflection

What I think:

1. What did I decide and why? Did I support or oppose or have a new idea?

2. What did someone else say or do that was particularly helpful?

3. What, if anything, could I do to address the problem?

What we think:

1. What did we agree on?

2. What, if anything, could we do to address the problem?

Rate yourself and the group on how well the rules for deliberation were followed:

(1 = not well, 2 = well, 3 = very well)

| | Me | Group |
|---|----|-------|
| Read the material carefully. | | |
| Focused on the deliberation question. | | |
| Listened carefully to what others said. | | |
| Understood and analyzed what others said. | | |
| Spoke and encouraged others to speak. | | |
| Referred to the reading to support ideas. | | |
| Used relevant background knowledge and life experiences in a logical way. | | |
| Remained engaged and respectful when controversy arose. | | |

1. What can I do to improve my deliberation skills?

2. What can the group do to improve the deliberation?