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**Workshop – Participant Handout**

*"The seeker after truth should be humbler than the dust. The world crushes the dust under its feet, but the seeker after truth should so humble himself that even the dust could crush him. Only then, and not till then, will he have a glimpse of truth."*

 – Mahatma Gandhi

*"A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger. You don't have that idea when you are arrogant, superficial, and uninformed."*

– Nelson Mandela

Now that you've broken into pairs, please select a topic from the below list to discuss. Go through the list from the top until you reach a topic on which you and your partner disagree.

**List of conversation topics:**

* Least controversial:
	+ Should elementary schools require students to wear uniforms?
	+ Should the government invest public funds in space exploration?
	+ Should the government impose regulations on the development of artificial intelligence technology?
* Medium-controversial:
	+ Animal rights: Should animals be used for drug/product testing? Should we eat animals? If so, what kinds? Should we own pets? Are zoos immoral? How should we protect wildlife?
	+ Should physician-assisted suicide be legal?
	+ Should the death penalty be a legal form of punishment?
	+ Should the government force parents to vaccinate their children?
	+ Should there be a tax on carbon emissions?
* Most controversial:
	+ Should your state government raise or lower the minimum wage?
	+ Should there be zones banning concealed carry of guns?
	+ Is healthcare a human right?
* Campus-related issues (potentially very controversial, depending on how topical they are right now):
	+ Should your college invite (and pay) a speaker even if a large group of students is offended by the speaker and plans to protest him or her?
	+ Should your college divest their endowment from companies that the student body deems harmful?
	+ Should professors issue trigger warnings on course syllabi?
	+ Is it rude to tell someone to "check their privilege"?
	+ Should your college use affirmative action in hiring staff?

**Part 1 - In Pairs [15 min]**

* Step 1
	+ Take turns stating your opinion.
		- Tips:
			* Remember to exercise intellectual humility (e.g., acknowledge that you may be wrong)
* Step 2
	+ Ask each other questions to try to understand the other person's view, why they believe it, and how they address counter-arguments.
		- Tips:
			* Ask questions, try to understand why they believe it
			* Ask how they respond to potential counterarguments
			* Challenge what the other person is saying (if there's illogic, point it out and ask them about it)
* Step 3
	+ Each person should synthesize and restate the view of their partner. Partners can correct one another until both sides fully understand the other perspective.
		- Tips:
			* Don't criticize or contradict (say "I can understand why you'd feel that way" rather than "You're wrong and here's why")
			* Acknowledge points of agreement

**Part 2 - In Pairs [10 min]**

* Step 1
	+ Each person should identify which of the six moral foundations underlie their position.
		- The six foundations are: Care, Fairness, Loyalty, Authority, Sanctity, and Liberty.
	+ Each person should explain how their foundations relate to their position.
	+ Ask one another questions for clarification if necessary.
* Step 2
	+ Each person should practice reframing their original argument in terms that resonate with their partner's moral foundations.

**Part 3 - In Pairs [10 min]**

* Step 1
	+ Each partner must argue on behalf of the opinion with which they originally disagreed (try to be as convincing as possible).