

What if what unites us is more than we realize, and what divides us is less than we fear?



“A house divided against itself cannot stand”  
Abraham Lincoln, 1858

www.transpartisan.net

### Transpartisan Agreements

- Remain open-minded:** listen to and respect all points of view. Everyone has their story...
- Acceptance:** suspend judgments as best you can.
- Curiosity:** seek to understand not persuade.
- Discovery:** question old assumptions, look for new insights and common ground.
- Sincerity:** speak authentically about what has personal heart and meaning.
- Brevity:** go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on. Share time, listen more...
- Civility:** speak as you would wish to be spoken to

Credit: conversationcafe.org

**Who are we?:** The Transpartisan Alliance is an informal network of networks

**Mission:** Unite U S one conversation at a time

**Goal:** Motivate and inspire Americans to work together across divides by practicing and teaching the principals of transpartisanship

### What does it mean to be Transpartisan?

Transpartisanship acknowledges the validity of beliefs across the range of political perspectives, seeking to synthesize them into an inclusive, pragmatic whole beyond political dualities. Transpartisan solutions emerge through applying proven methods of facilitated dialogue, deliberation and conflict resolution in a new kind of public conversation.

The Transpartisan Alliance is a neutral convener. We do not set agendas, dictate outcomes, require any modification of views or beliefs, limit associations, or have any prerequisites to participate at its gatherings. We do require civility as a general guideline for participation. The Transpartisan Alliance seeks to include all positions and points of view in any topic or gathering with the underlying premise that all perspectives are needed and of value in the search for win-win solutions.

### The Transpartisan Toolbox

Navigating contentious issues requires learning and applying some basic personal and interpersonal communication skills. These five tools are central to building collaborative action.

- Listen to Understand**  
Practice reflecting what you've heard, listen for shared concerns.
- The art of inquiry**  
Questions that deepen understanding of other points of view.
- Recognizing judgments**  
Get curious, not furious. Is there a deeper story here?
- Managing triggers**  
Keep a calm head, breathe! Respond, don't react. Remember civility.
- Speaking to be heard**  
Intend to be understood, let go of the need to convince.



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### How to get involved

- Watch** the introductory videos on [www.transpartisan.net](http://www.transpartisan.net)
- Join** and contribute to the social network on [www.transpartisan.net](http://www.transpartisan.net)
- Support** the Campaign to Unite U S by becoming an individual or group sustaining member
- Convene** a transpartisan study circle (eight week dialogue course)
- Participate** in a transpartisan 101 facilitators training
- Attend** the next annual *American Citizens Summit*
- Engage** The Transpartisan Alliance team as consultants
- Donate** talk is cheap, speech is still free, but the Campaign to Unite U S has costs - support it!

[www.transpartisan.net](http://www.transpartisan.net) for dates, details, and information

### Engagement Process

**Our personal stories inform our values, which influence our politics, and shape our policies.**

- Personal Story**  
What did America mean to you when you were 12 years old? What experience most shaped your political point of view?
- Values**  
What are your top three values? What values do we share?
- Politics**  
What unites/divides us? What's the cost of polarization to you, your community, the country?
- Policies**  
What issue(s) can we work on? What are win/win policy options that over 80% of U.S. citizens can say yes to?