

STAGES OF DELIBERATIVE DISCUSSIONS

Some moderators move through these stages in a single discussion. Others divide these stages into multiple discussions.

Welcome	The moderator introduces the issue to be discussed and the purpose and practices of a deliberative discussion.
Guidelines	Participants review suggested guidelines that will help them examine the issue together deliberatively.
Starter Activity	Many National Issues Forums include a brief, multi-perspective conversation starter video.
Personal Stake	Participants share interest in the issue and how it impacts their lives or the lives of others.
Deliberation	Participants examine a range of approaches to addressing a public issue, considering advantages, drawbacks, and trade-offs of each.
Reflection	Participants reflect on the entire discussion to highlight areas of commonality and differences and to consider potential next steps.
Questionnaire	Participants may complete a questionnaire to capture their views.