



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Speech, Harm & Offense***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of **“Speech, Harm, & Offense.”** Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Learn about American views on free expression in the digital sphere and online in the Knight Foundation’s 2020 report, [Free Expression, Harmful Speech and Censorship in a Digital World](#).
- Discover what college students in the U.S. think about the nature of free speech and campus climate in this 2022 Knight Foundation report, [College Student Views on Free Expression and Campus Speech 2022](#).
- Learn more about the concept of academic freedom at the [American Federation of Teachers](#) and from the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#).
- Read a [critical opinion piece](#) about the relationship between limiting academic freedom and racism in America by Eddie R. Cole, Associate Professor of Higher Education at UCLA.
- Learn about the connections between hate speech and atrocity crimes on the United Nations page, [Hate Speech and Real Harm](#).

- Read an opinion piece published by the [Brookings Institution](#) about how social media companies can combat the spread of misinformation online.

Get Connected

- Discover the free speech advocacy work done by the [Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression \(FIRE\)](#).
- Support the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#) and its efforts related to free speech and campus expression.
- Explore student codes of conduct at U.S. institutions of higher education, such as [Auburn University](#) and [Howard University](#).

Get Involved

- The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) has a number of ways to get involved if you are concerned about hate speech and want to mitigate its effects.
- Join the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#).
- Support [Article 19's](#) efforts to defend free expression globally.
- Discover violence prevention strategies from [The Dangerous Speech Project](#).

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dc@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.