



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***The Challenge for Democracy***

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 ***The Challenge for Democracy: To What Extent Should Democratic Nations Promote and Defend Democracy Around the World?*** 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 how [USAID promotes democracy](#) around the world.
- Read the Economist’s report on contemporary challenges to democracy and recent reversals of democracy in their [2021 Democracy Index](#).
- Learn about the [Heritage Foundation’s Index of Economic Freedom](#), or a person’s ability to control his or her own labor or property.
- Explore the [Freedom House ratings](#) of people’s access to political rights and civil liberties or download their [Freedom in the World dataset](#).
- Read about a [Pew Research Center poll about international perception of the European Union](#), which is comprised of democratic nations.
- Learn about the Hoover Institution’s research on [“Determining America’s Role in the World”](#).
- Learn about the [Federalist’s perspective](#) on the American right’s approach to promoting democracy.

- Read a [critical perspective on democracy promotion globally](#) and its relationship to the furthering of American economic interests.
- Read a [perspective suggesting democracy promotion is a form of imperialism](#), published in the Harvard Political Review.
- Learn about [backlash against democratic assistance](#) in a U.S. Senate report.

Get Connected

- Follow the work that [National Democracy Institute](#) does to promote democracy around the world.
- Follow the [International Republican Institute's democracy promotion](#) efforts around the world.
- Learn about grants available from the [Open Society Foundations](#) that promote democratic principles internationally.
- Keep up with [Judicial Watch](#), an organization focused on transparency in American government.
- Keep up with democracy promotion initiatives at the [Alliance of Democracies](#).

Get Involved

- Attend a [National Endowment for Democracy event](#).
- Get inspired about the relationship between [public engagement and democracy promotion at International IDEA](#).
- Peruse the International [Republican Institute's polls focused on "actionable insights for decision-makers"](#).
- Learn about [training for conservative activists by the Leadership Institute](#).
- Become a [United Nations volunteer](#).
- Learn about how to [become a non-partisan election observer](#) in the U.S.

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 dci@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.