



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***College Admissions Policies***

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 “**College Admissions Policies.**” 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 more about [affirmative action](#) from the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Explore [Affirmative Action Pros and Cons: What Both Sides Think](#) from The Week
- Read [5 Reasons to Support Affirmative Action in College Admissions](#) from the Center for American Progress
- Read [The Case Against Affirmative Action](#) in *Stanford Magazine*
- Examine public opinion on affirmative action from [Pew Research Center](#) and [Gallup](#)
- Explore different viewpoints on legacy admissions in [U.S. News & World Report](#) and [The Hill](#)
- Check out this [College Admissions Guide for Student-Athletes](#) from Ivy Scholars

Get Connected

- Follow research from the Brookings Institution on topics like [Admissions at Most Colleges Will Be Unaffected by Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action](#) and the Heritage Foundation on topics like [How Race-Preferential Admissions Policies on Campus Hurt Minority Students](#)
- Join [American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity](#), [The Equity Lab](#) or other [organizations that support affirmative action](#) if you think affirmative action should play a role in college admissions
- Join organizations like [Asian Americans Against Affirmative Action](#), [Students for Fair Admission](#), or the [Project on Fair Representation](#) if you oppose affirmative action
- Connect with organizations like [Essential Partners](#) that equip “people to live and work better together in community by building trust and understanding across differences”

Get Involved

- Find and support candidates who hold views on affirmative action similar to your own using [OnTheIssues.org](#)
- Track legislation like the [Fair College Admissions for Students Act](#) – a bill introduced in Congress to end legacy admissions
- Host a conversation using a guide from [Living Room Conversations](#), [The Policy Circle](#), or [the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education](#) on affirmative action and inclusive college environments issues for your friends, family members, or neighbors
- Learn more about affirmative action in North Carolina from [Ballotpedia](#)

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.