



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Income and Wealth Disparities***

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 **Income and Wealth Disparities**. 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

- Read [this backgrounder on the US inequality debate](#), including information on policy proposals from prominent politicians, from the Council on Foreign Relations.
- Learn about the [pitfalls of focusing too much attention on wealth inequality](#) from the Center for Economic and Policy Research.
- Understand the arguments in favor of Limitarianism [via this synopsis](#) from the London School of Economics.
- Review John Rawl’s [perspective on inequality in this entry](#) from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
- Explore data on [income](#) and [wealth](#) inequality in the US from the Economic Policy Institute and the Urban Institute.
- Read this perspective from the American Enterprise Institute on [why we shouldn’t worry about wealth inequality](#).

- Learn more about the [philosophical idea of meritocracy](#) from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
- Read [this perspective on the threats that rising inequality poses](#) to our society from the Brookings Institute.

Get Connected

- Engage with [Oxfam](#) to fight inequality domestically and internationally.
- Connect with the [Americans for Tax Reform initiative](#), which aims to reduce taxation and government intervention in the economy.
- Review the work of the [Othering and Belonging Institute and take free classes](#) that focus on addressing inequality in non-traditional ways.
- Support free enterprise by joining the [US Chamber of Commerce](#).

Get Involved

- Review how you can become a [member of a labor union](#).
- Use [On the Issues](#) to find political leaders who favor your preferred policies to address, or not address, wealth and income inequality.
- Advocate with [Inequality.org](#) to support research and policy implementation that addresses inequality.
- [Support charitable giving](#) as an alternative to government intervention.
- Participate in efforts by [Americans for Prosperity](#) to deregulate markets and lower taxes.

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.