



# 5 Steps for a Conversation Across Difference

Public Toolkit



**From stopping climate change to creating new economic opportunities in overlooked communities, solutions are the most enduring when we create them together. Even - and especially - when it means working across divides.**

**That's why the Dream.Org Green For All team developed the Dialogues Method to help changemakers and communities create solutions by building bridges instead of barriers.**

**Our method lays out a road map to help you turn disagreements into constructive conversations and develop goals that inspire innovation.**

**We developed this toolkit to help break through the noise, unite unlikely allies, identify shared interests, and advance solutions to issues where there is common ground that can surprise people on both sides - like climate change. Whether you're looking to build bridges with key partners or facilitate a dialogue training in your own community, this toolkit will become the toolbox you need to help you build and sustain long-term diverse partnerships and to find unexpected solutions to problems affecting us all.**

# TOOL 1

## Talk about Talking



Use this tool for aligning around context, possibility, and expectations. Each person can go back and forth to share answers to the following questions.

	Person 1	Person 2
<b>The Moment We Are In -</b> What is inspiring this moment of bridge-building?		
<b>Purpose &amp; Possibility -</b> What might be possible because of us coming together now?		
<b>Guiding Values -</b> What values would you like to guide your conversation together? Are there any norms or mindsets you'd like to set?		

# TOOL 2

## Use Your Imagination



If we can agree on the future we want to see, then we can trust one another to be partners, teammates, and allies in building that world. So, take a moment and align on a vision that you can share.

**STEP  
1**

**VISUALIZE**

Close your eyes. Imagine it is 50 years from now. What do you hope the world looks like? What changes do you want to see in your community? In the country?

**STEP  
2**

**CREATE**

Get those visions down on paper. Draw it, write it, map it out – show us how beautiful the world can be.

**STEP  
3**

**SHARE**

Share your visions. Describe what the world looks and feels like. What is possible?

**STEP  
4**

**REFLECT**

What do you both agree on as a hope for the future? We'll take this and work towards this together.

# TOOL 3

## Tell Your Story



Stories connect us to each other. Who are you? Who is sitting across from you? Hearing someone else's story and sharing your own can tear down prejudices and suspicions. We are more than our hometown or political party.

Nervous about sharing your story or don't know what to say? Remember -- everyone has a story worth sharing. Here are some tools to get you started.

**STEP  
1**

**Hold your  
vision  
close**

Return to the vision of a better world in 50 years. What did you change?

**STEP  
2**

**Reflect on  
your care  
& impact**

Reflect on the first time you realized that this issue was something you cared about. What was the real-life impact on you, your family, or your community?

**STEP  
3**

**Share  
your story**

Now, share your story with your partner and listen to theirs. Be active and open, hearing what they have to say without needing to respond.

# TOOL 4

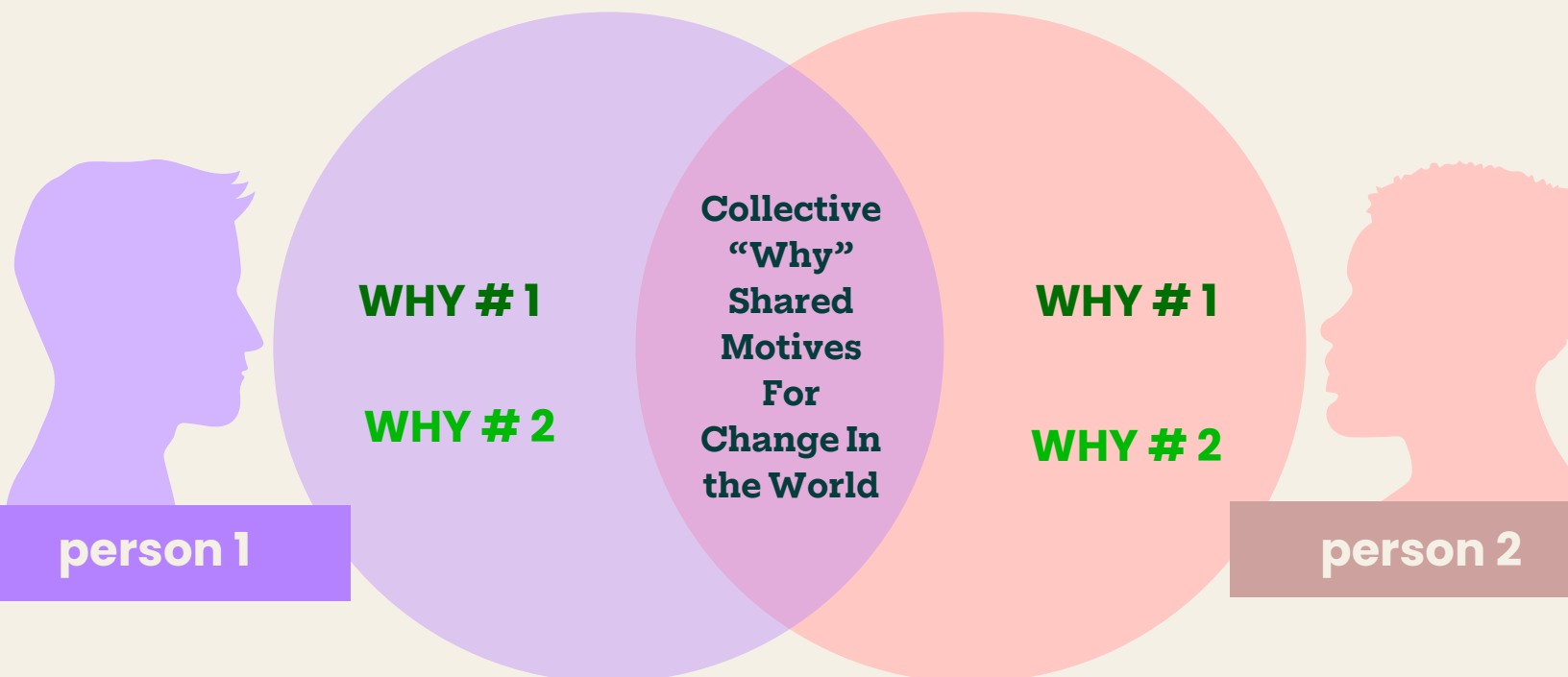
## Find Your Shared Motive

Now that we know what we want, let's find a shared "why" we want it. Where is there a shared purpose around the work you do? Is it a moral belief? An economic vision? A social value? An environmental concern?

Use the following table to identify your personal and collective "Why?" and consider which framework

### Finding Your WHY: Different Frameworks

MORAL	ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	ENVIRONMENTAL
personal values, belief systems, religion	work & wealth, jobs, income, business	society, community, family	nature, health, climate, resources



# TOOL 5

## Find Your Next Step



**It's time to turn the conversation into action. Authentic, honest, and sometimes messy conversations are the key ingredients for real change. Identify one next step – no matter how big or how small – to keep this relationship and this work growing. Become an unlikely team ready to change the world.**

Use these guiding questions to identify your next step:

- **How can you use your voice to bring us closer to our 50-year vision?**
- **What is your shared “Why” and speaks to shared purpose?**
- **How can we act together to build a future for everyone?**

**Dream.Org's Dialogues Method is based on the premise that if we learn how to navigate difficult conversations, we can build deep, authentic relationships with each other and advance solutions for all.**

**Our hope is that this toolkit will provide you with the foundation you need to effectively introduce these ideas into your own communities, organizations, and institutions. In doing so, you'll be better equipped to handle the difficult obstacles that might arise when you're working to solve complex problems together.**

**We know that dreaming big can change the world, but we also know that we can't do that unless we build those dreams together.**

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