

TED TALK: THREE STEPS TO TURN MEETINGS INTO TRANSFORMATIVE GATHERINGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This discussion guide is designed for programming at American Spaces. American Spaces should work with their Public Affairs Section to ensure that this topic and video are appropriate for American Spaces audiences.



VIDEO INFORMATION

Video Title: 3 steps to turn everyday get-togethers into transformative gatherings

Year Release: 2019

Duration: 10 min

English Level: Intermediate

Speaker: Priya Parker- Conflict mediator, author

Themes: meaningful connections, conflict resolution, unhealthy peace, intimate gatherings

[Link to Video](#)

VIDEO SUMMARY

Priya Parker's informative talk addresses how we can shape and change every-day meetings into meaningful and transformative gatherings more focused on human connection. She begins the talk by sharing her diverse upbringing and how that influenced her career path in conflict resolution. Throughout the talk, she outlines three steps to creating more intimate and transformative gatherings and meetings: be specific, cause good controversy, and create a temporary alternative world through pop-up rules. She stresses how these meaningful gatherings are more intimate and look different for each individual group and illustrates this with several examples. Priya Parker ends her talk by emphasizing the importance of the specific way we gather.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

KEY VOCABULARY

Conflict Resolution - The process in which two or more parties work towards a solution to a problem or dispute.

Intimate gatherings - A gathering that can be deeply personal, warm, friendly, informal, or have the intent of acquiring deeper personal relationships.

Disputable Purpose - The purpose of a specific subject (gatherings), being open to discussion or debate; not set in stone.

Canapé - A small piece of bread or pastry with a savory topping, often served with drinks at a reception or formal party. In this context, Priya is referring to the ways people obsess over the small details of a party rather than connection.

TIPS ON VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

- This video is shareable on social media, and Facebook's watch party feature can be used to stream this video.
- Consider inviting a local expert or U.S. official to facilitate discussion during and after the webinar.
- Preview the video beforehand to determine which parts you will show.
- For more tips go [here](#).



Discussion Questions

1. What do regular gatherings look like in your country? What do meaningful ones look like?
2. What does the speaker mean when she says "human connection is as threatened by unhealthy peace as it is unhealthy conflict?"
3. What are the 3 steps to creating transformative gatherings?
4. How do you believe your personal and professional relationships would change if these three steps were used in every meeting/gathering?
5. Do you think this advice would also work for virtual meetings?

Additional Resources

- [Priya Parker's Guide on Virtual Connections](#) - This guide designed by Priya Parker highlights how to further create meaningful connections, but on an online platform.

