



CONVERSATION CAFÉ FOR YOUTH — Process & Agreements

1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** **Welcomer** says name and how it feels to talk in a group. Then says, *“Let’s go around the circle, saying your name and how it feels for you to talk in a group.”*
2. **AGREEMENTS:** **Welcomer** passes out the **Agreements** and asks, *“Would someone read the first one and say briefly what it means to you?”* Repeat this process with each Agreement.

Open-mindedness: Keep an open mind while you listen, and respect others because everyone is valuable.

Acceptance: Remember, others may have different points of view, and you don’t have to decide if they are good or bad.

Curiosity: Try to understand what others think and feel rather than proving you are right.

Discovery: Ask questions if you need to be clearer about what was said.

Sincerity: Speak about your own feelings and experiences.

Brevity: Be honest but brief so that others have time to share.

Privacy: Respect the conversation by not saying who said what.

Welcomer asks, *“Can we all agree to these?”*

3. **PROCESS:** **Explainer** describes the process by saying, *“This talking object is what you will hold while you are talking. People can only talk when they are holding it. We will go around the circle two times. If you are not ready to talk when the talking object comes around to you, you can say PASS. Then, we will just talk freely about the subject. We will end the conversation with a final round.”* At any point during the conversation, if an Agreement is being broken, the **Reminder**, with or without the talking object, may gently interrupt.
4. **ROUND 1:** **Explainer** shows how to do the first round by saying, *“One thought I have about (the topic) is”* **Explainer** passes the *talking object* to their left for each person to complete the sentence.
5. **ROUND 2:** Again the **Explainer** goes first by completing the sentence, *“One more thing I can say is . . .”* and passes the *talking object* again around the circle.
6. **CONVERSATION:** **Inviter** states the topic or question for the conversation:

Inviter holds the *talking object* and says, *“Whoever would like to begin may take the talking object and speak. When you are finished, hold the talking object out for someone else to take.”*

Focuser gives the group a signal by saying, *“The final round will begin in three minutes, so what is it that we haven’t said about this topic yet?”*

7. **FINAL ROUND:** **Opposer** says, *“In this final round with the talking object, say what was interesting or important to you about this conversation. I will begin.”* After speaking, the **Opposer** passes the talking object to the right to go around the circle.