

Upsides and Downsides: Face-to-Face Dialogue

Think about a recent, in-person discussion about a civic issue that you were part of or observed. Pair up with a classmate, share stories, and discuss the questions below.

- Share some factual details: Where did it happen? Who was involved and what were their relationships to each other? What was the issue?
- Describe the conversation: Who started it? Did people in the discussion disagree at all or offer different perspectives? How were those perspectives shared? Was the discussion emotional or “heated” at any point? What did people do, if anything, to keep things civil? How did it conclude?
- Now take a step back from these specific experiences and think about how being face-to-face with another person - having to look them in the eye - affects discussions of civic issues. What are the upsides? What are the downsides? Use this graphic organizer to record your and your partner’s ideas.

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