

Reclaiming Civil Public Engagement and Discourse

"The essential need is the improvement of the methods and conditions of debate, discussion and persuasion. That is THE problem of the public."

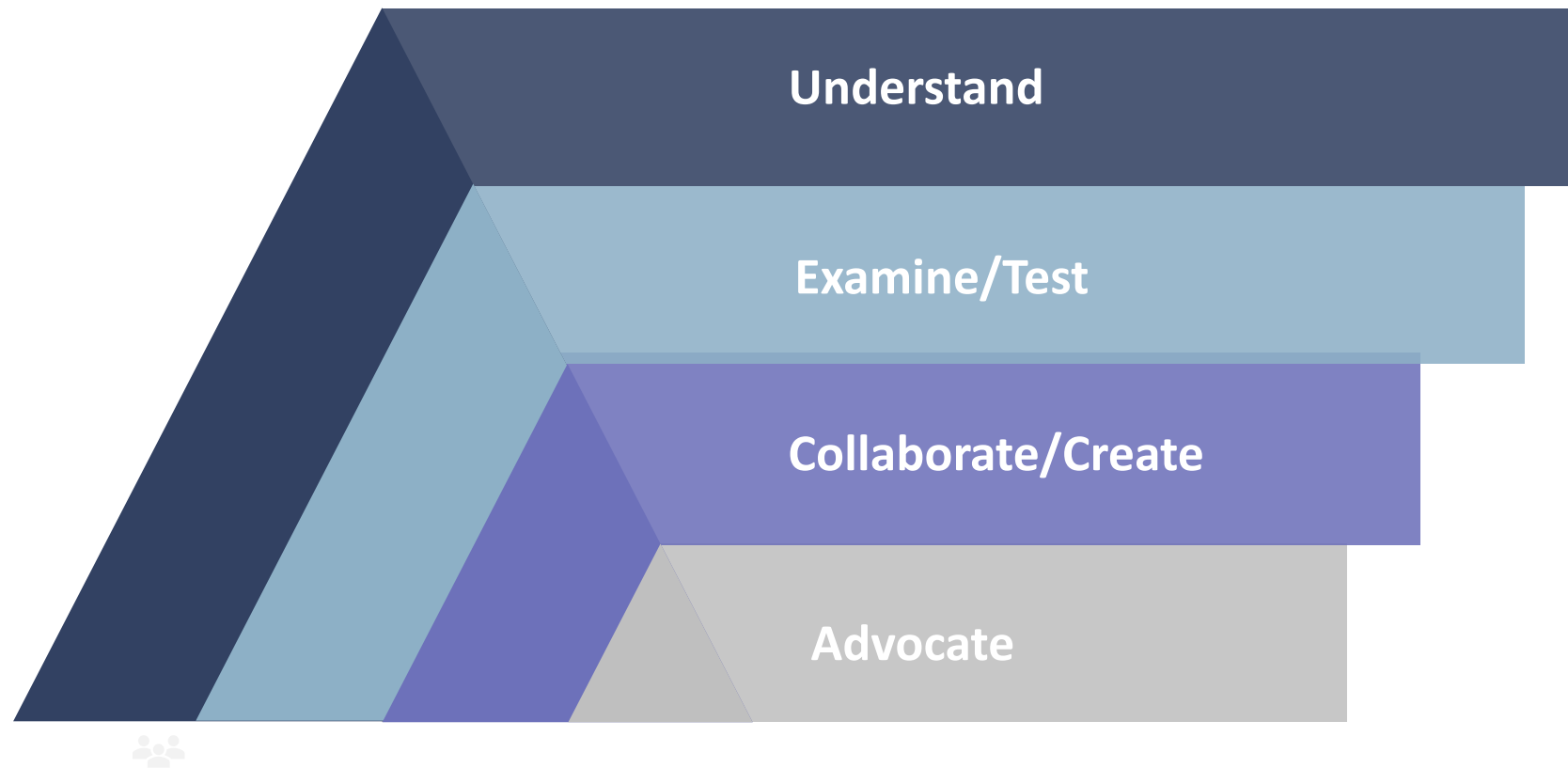
John Dewey, 1927
The Public and its Problems

Communication is:

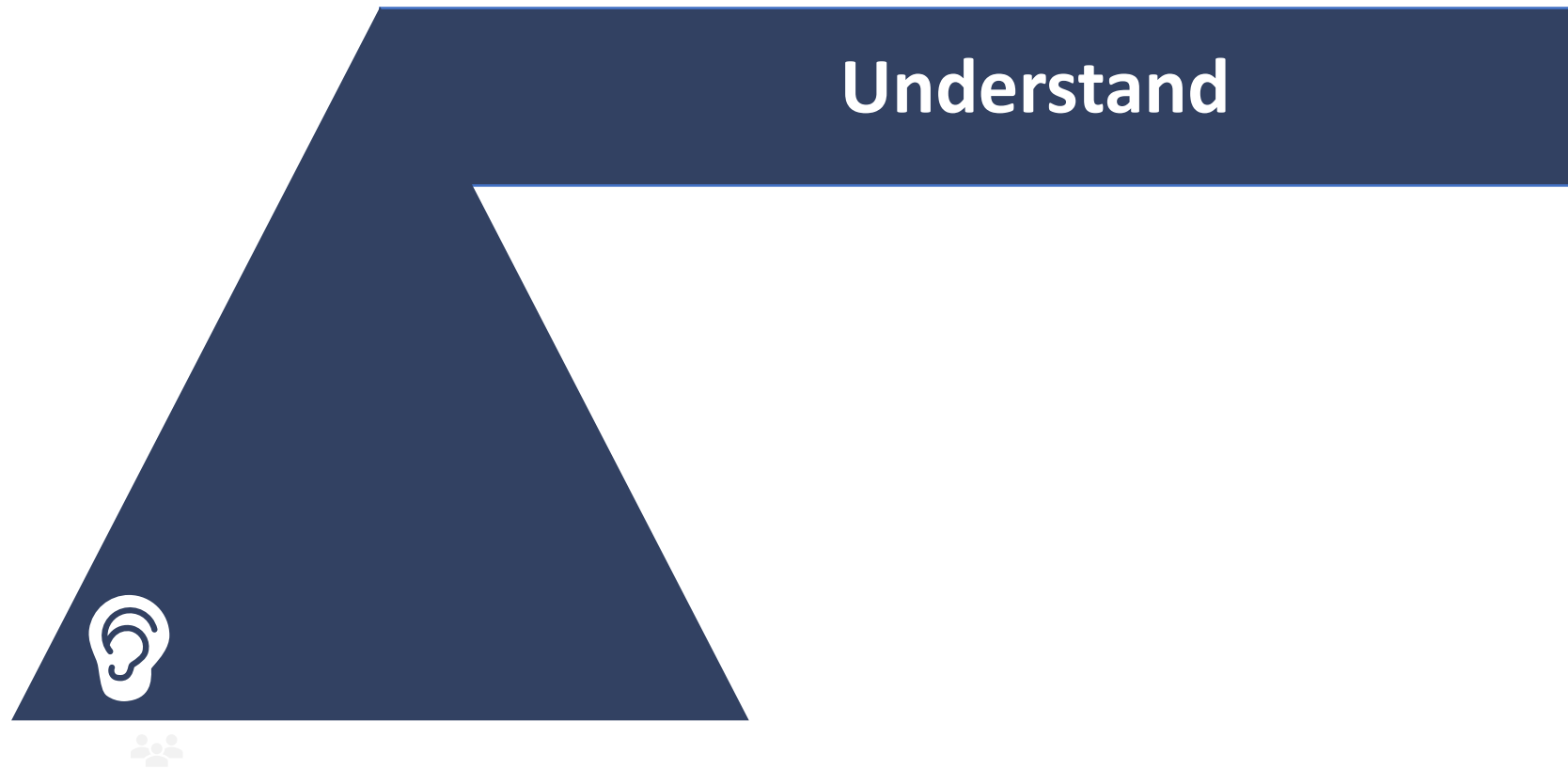
- **Situated/Contextual**
- **Purposeful/Intentional**

Effective
Communication
Is
Responsive

Process of Democratic Discourse



Process of Democratic Discourse

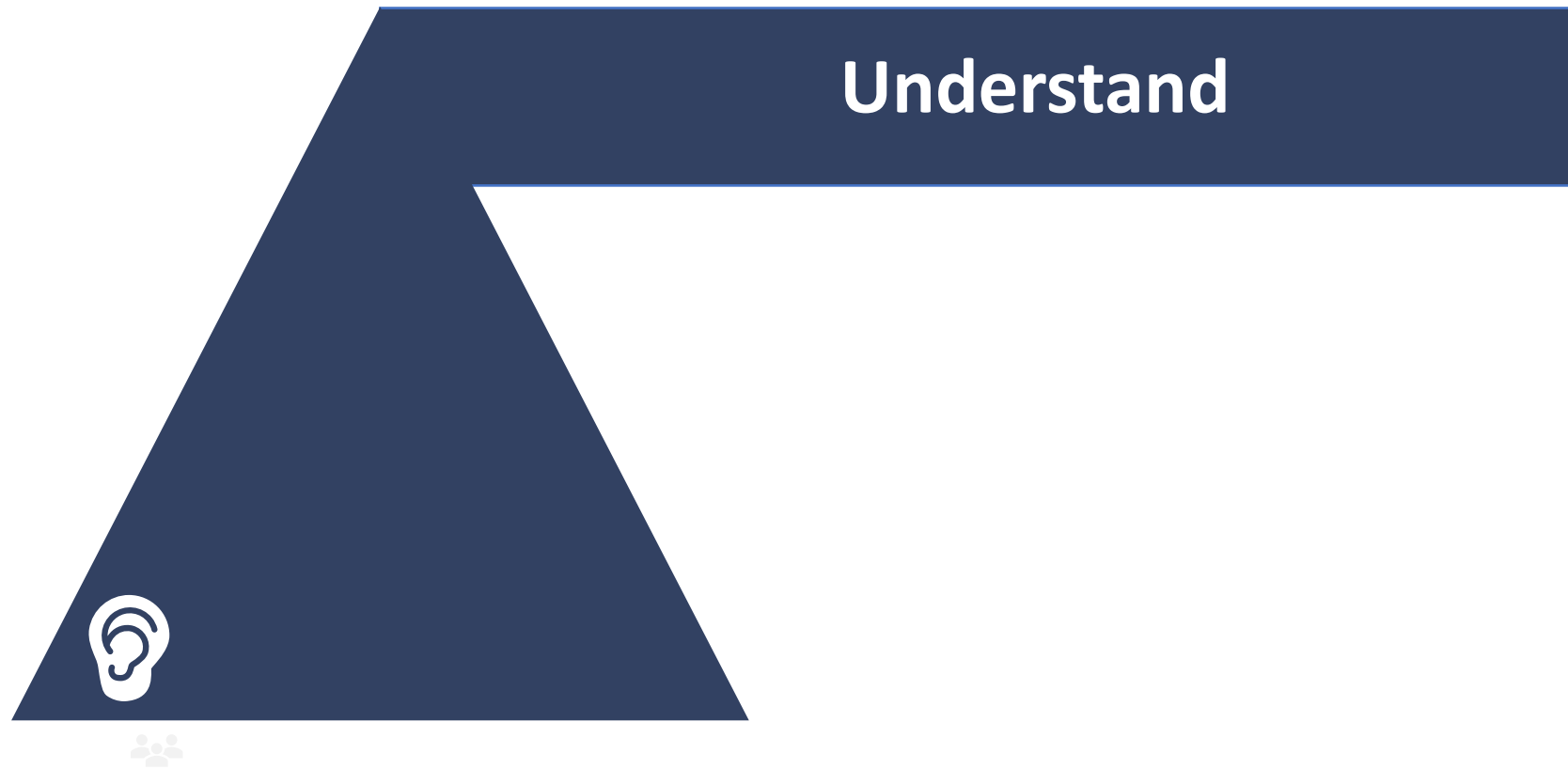


Courage is what it takes to stand
up and speak.

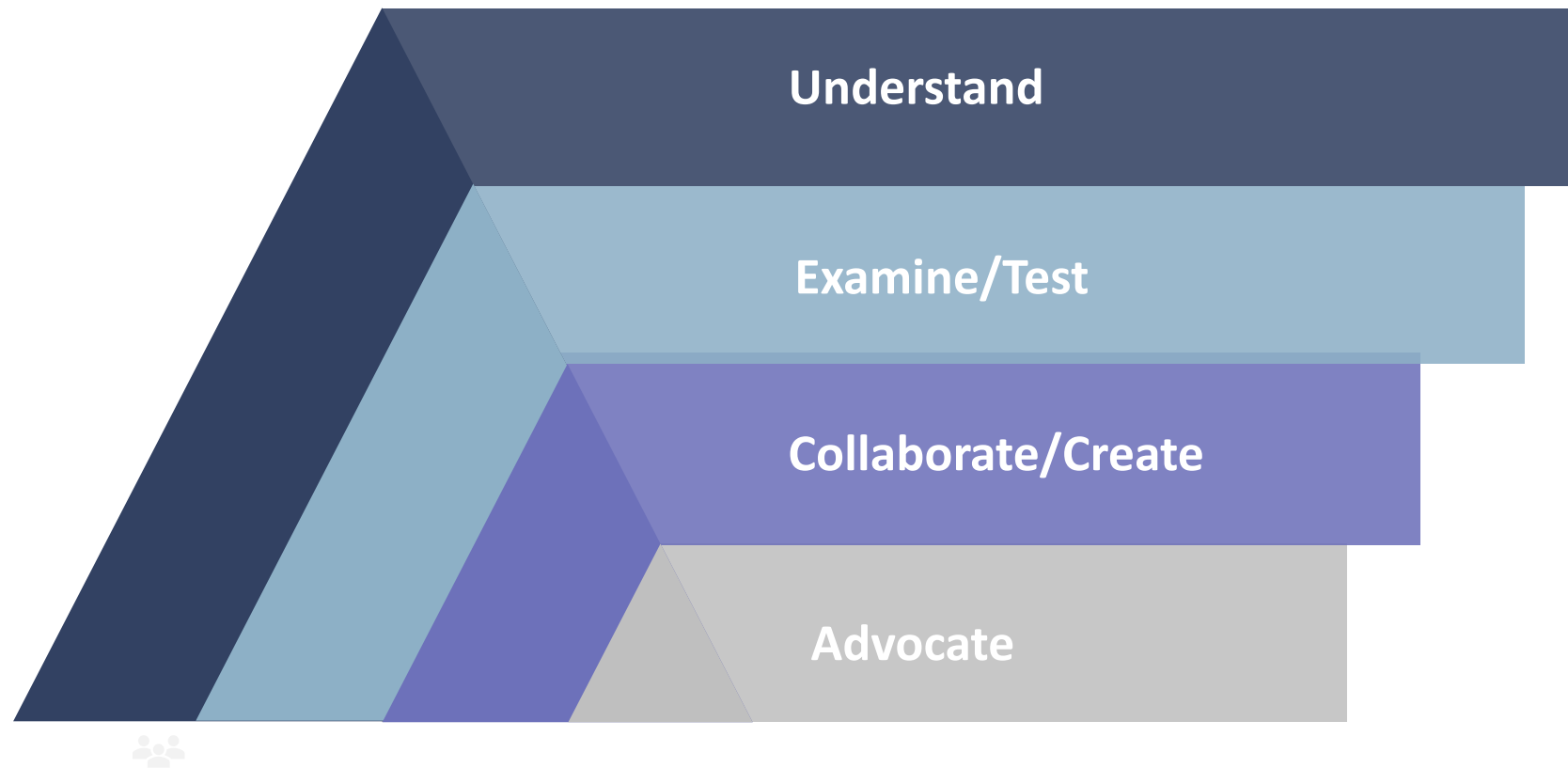
Courage is also what it takes to sit
down and listen

Winston Churchill

Process of Democratic Discourse



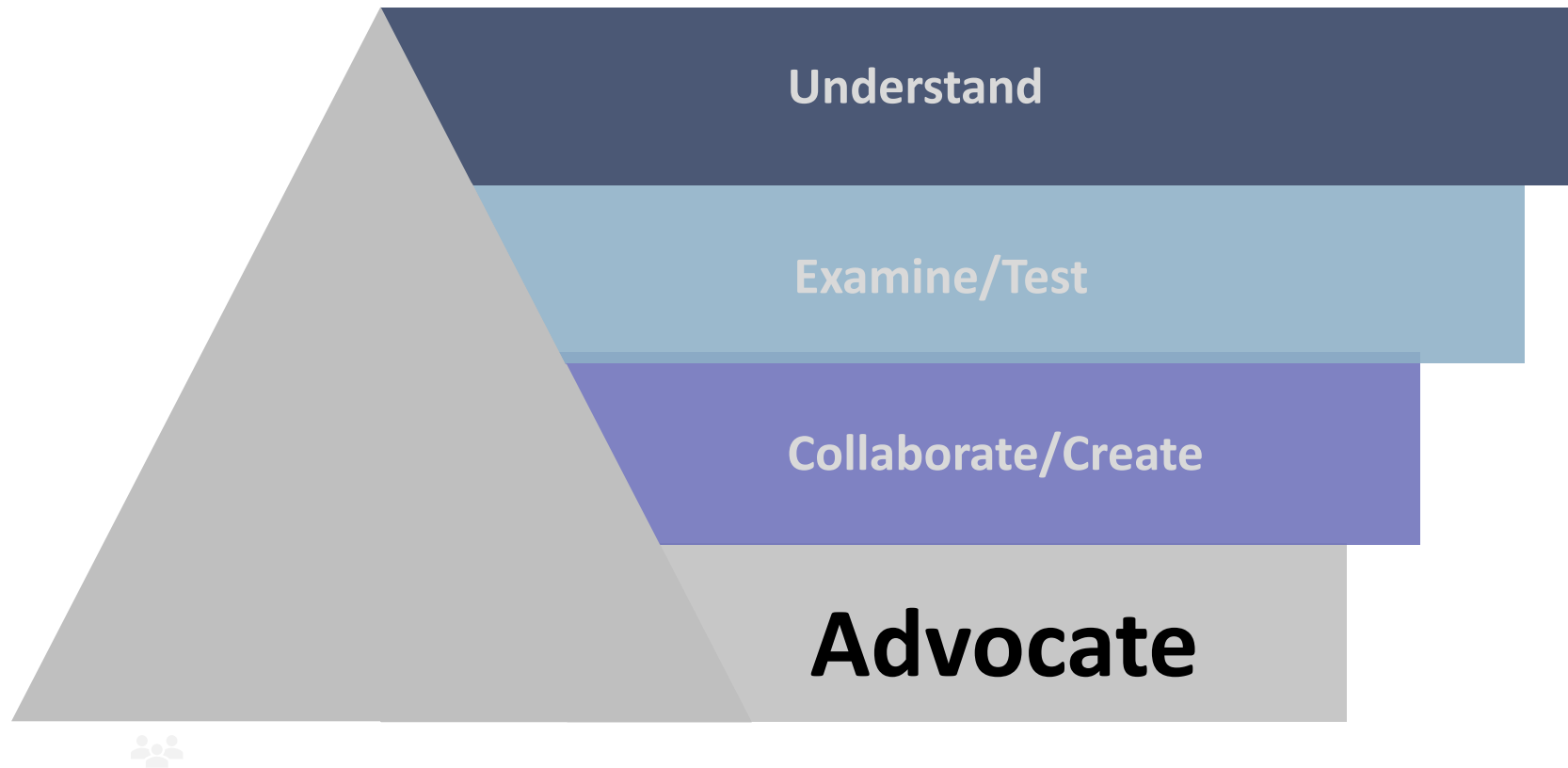
Process of Democratic Discourse



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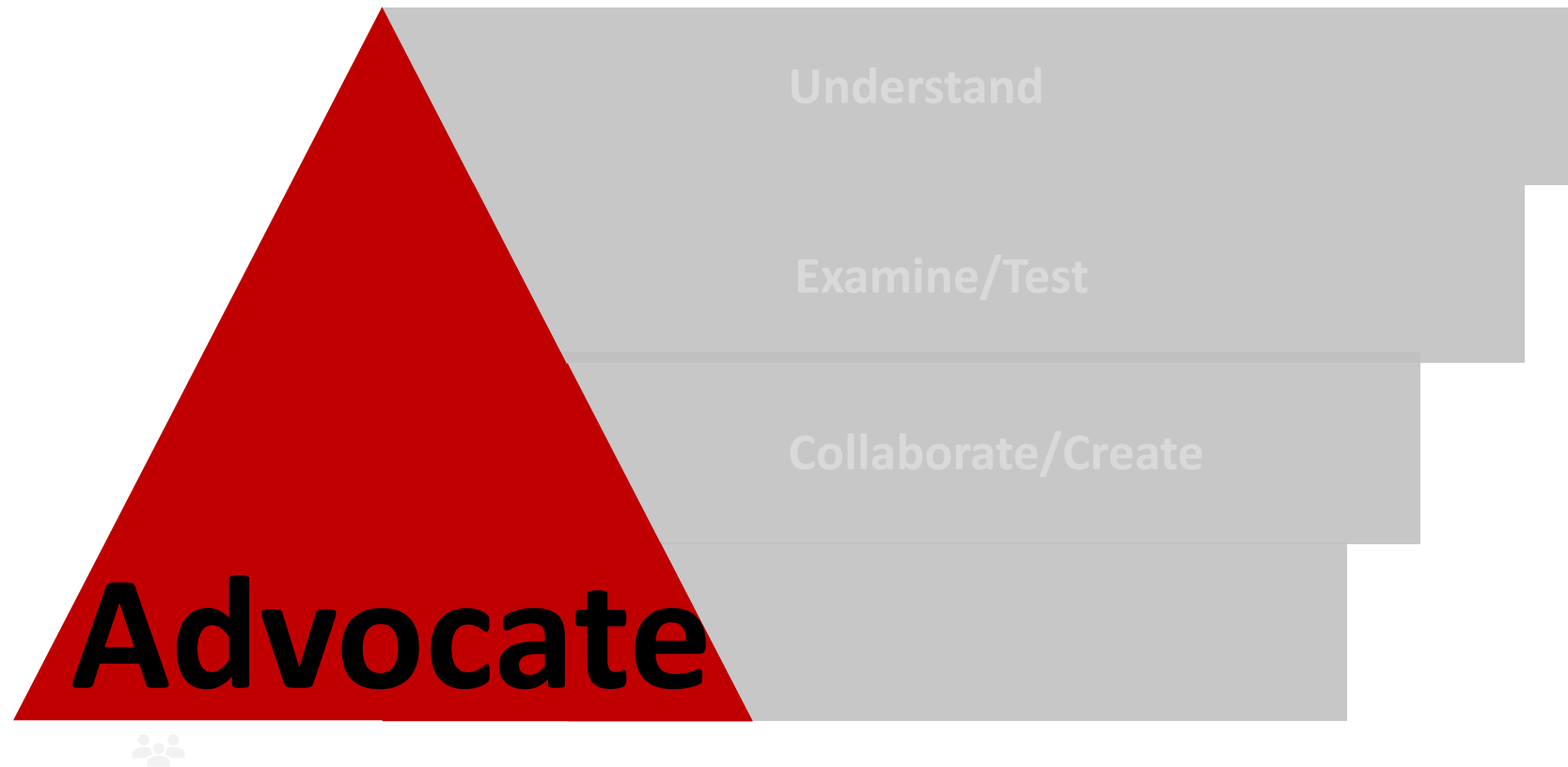
Democratic Discourse—The Problem



Democratic Discourse—The Problem



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Democratic Discourse—The Problem



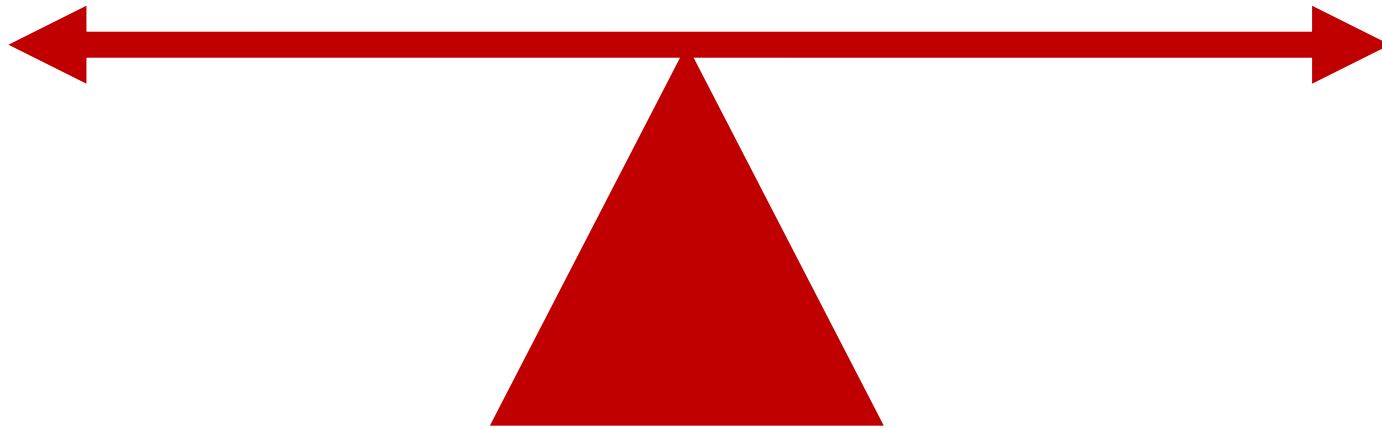
Understand

Examine/Test

Collaborate/Create



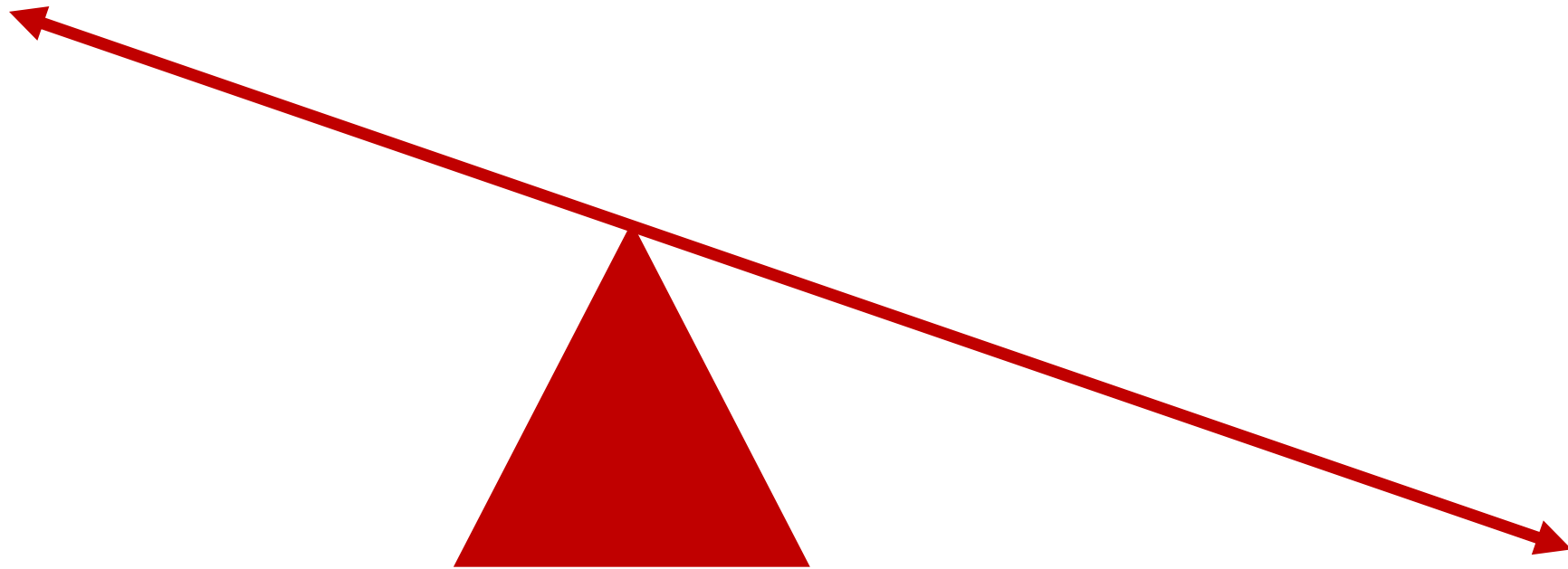
Democratic Discourse—The Problem



Advocate



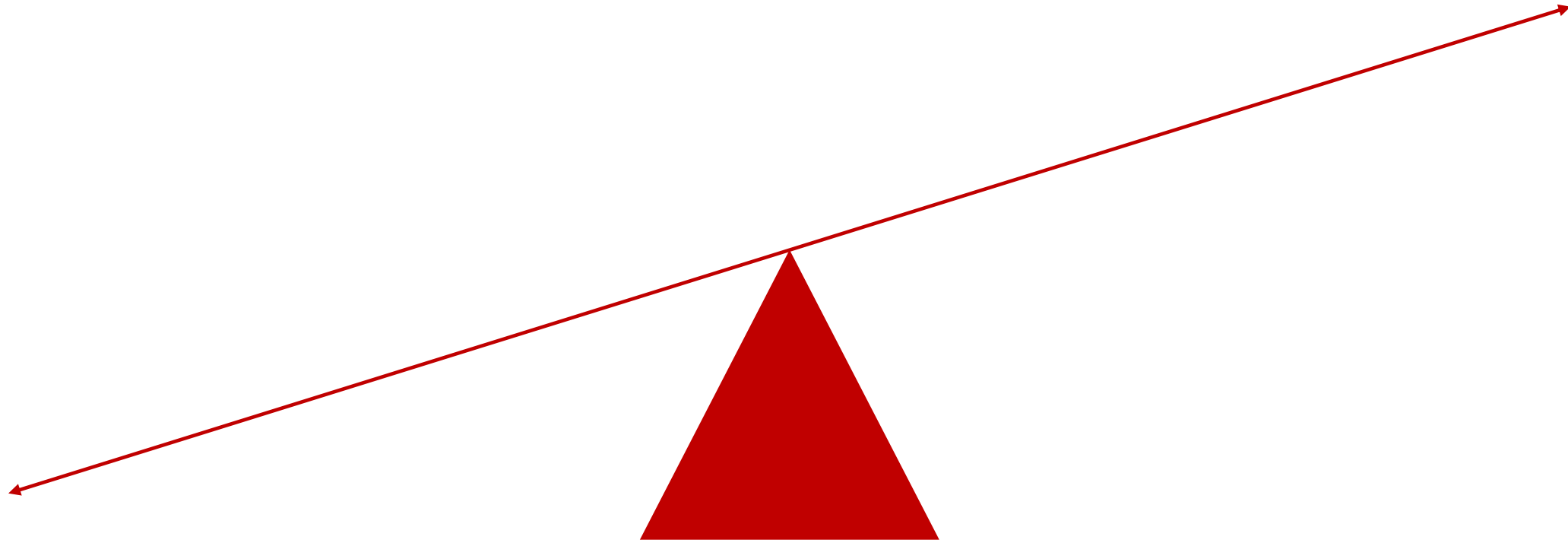
Democratic Discourse—The Problem



Advocate



Democratic Discourse—The Problem



Advocate



Democratic Discourse—The Problem



Advocate

Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Disruption

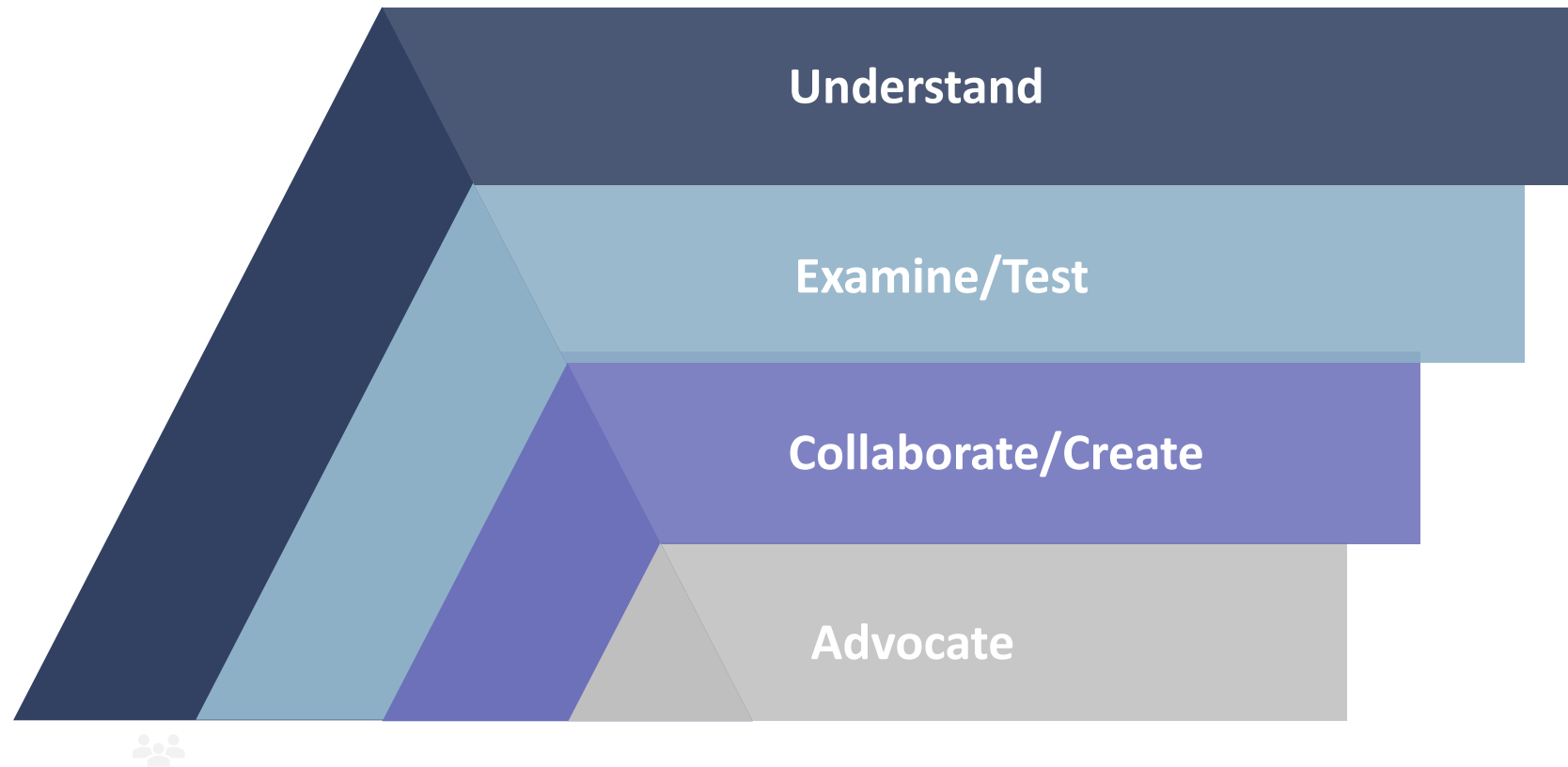


Moving to foundational functions of discourse

- **Changing the questions—the nature of...**
- **Including multiple perspectives**
- **Changing the format/mode of discourse**



Process of Democratic Discourse Effective Advocacy



Process of Democratic Discourse

Structure of Effective Advocacy



Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Disrupt Advocacy



- Start from the beginning of the process
- Reframe the questions
 - Understanding/examining/collaborating
- Involve citizens from the beginning
 - Determine the nature of the problem
 - Determine the nature of options
- Leadership as working *with* not *for* or *to*

Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Public Engagement

- Engage the community in understanding issues
- Build trust with Listening
- Utilize/enact/build community networks



Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Public Engagement



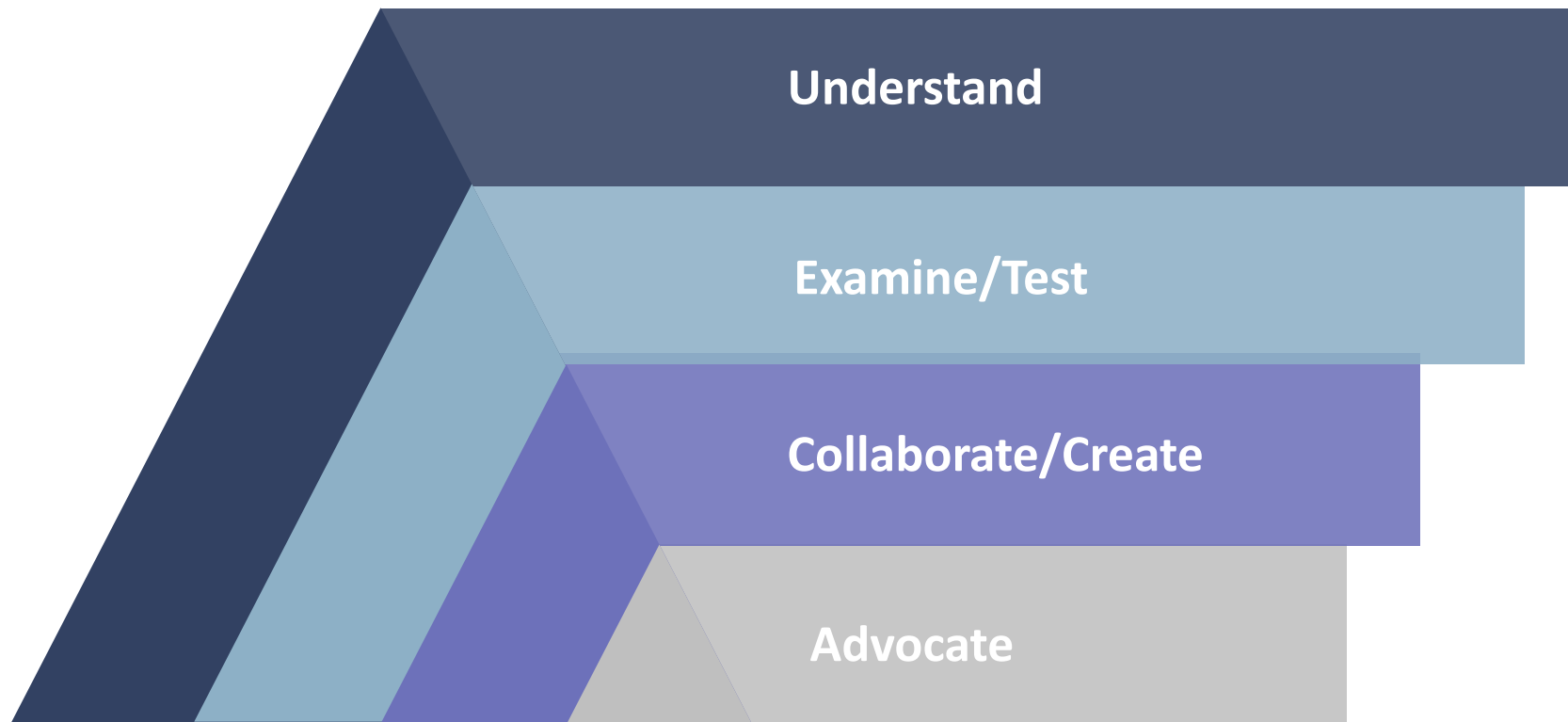
- **Adopt models for community members to connect, discuss, decide, and enact**
- **Employ appropriate modes/models**
 - **Work through the process of discourse**
 - **Hold/work through disagreement/difference**
 - **Navigate expertise**

Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Examples





THANK YOU

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