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

- Collaborate/Create
- Examine/Test
- Understand
- Advocate
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

- Advocate
- Collaborate/Create
- Examine/Test
- Understand
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*The Public and its Problems*
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

- Advocate
- Collaborate/Create
- Examine/Test
- Understand
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate

Collaborate/Create

Examine/Test

Understand
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate

Collaborate/Create

Examine/Test

Understand
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate

Collaborate/Create

Examine/Test

Understand
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate
Democratic Discourse—The Problem

Advocate
Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

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

- Advocate
  - Collaborate/Create
    - Examine/Test
      - Understand
Process of Democratic Discourse
Structure of Effective Advocacy
Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

- 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*

Disrupt Advocacy
Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

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

Public Engagement
Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

- 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

Public Engagement
Reclaiming Democratic Discourse

Understand

Examples
Collaborate/Create
Understand
Examine/Test
Collaborate/Create
Advocate
THANK YOU

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