

Leading a Simple Conversation

Practicing facilitation does not need to be a stressful or formal activity. For successful practice, start small with a few people. Pick a topic you are familiar with, and don't feel you have to begin with something controversial. Even the simplest conversations help us to learn about the community.

Where to start

If you have 3–10 minutes, you have time for a simple conversation. As a result, these conversations can happen virtually anywhere. Consider talking to:

PEOPLE IN THE LIBRARY

- Library patrons
- Families attending story time
- Groups that meet at the library

PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

- Residents attending a community gathering
- Parents attending a school function
- Fans attending a sporting event

Conversation outline

Use questions that will be accessible and relevant to anyone you talk to, while keeping the conversation focused on what they would like to see in the future.

Introduce yourself and explain the purpose of your conversation

Hi, I'm _____ from the _____ Library. Today we're talking to people about the _____ community and what they would like to see in the future. Is it okay if I ask you a few questions?

1. What type of community do you want _____ to be?
City / Town / County

2. Why is that important to you?

3. How do you think our community can work together to get there?

Thank you for your input and for taking the time to talk with me today.