

Israel and Palestine:

DECONSTRUCTING OUR STORIES

PRESENTED BY: THE CIVIL DISCOURSE LAB, HILLEL, THE MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, AND UNH SOCRATIC SOCIETY

THANK YOU TO OUR EXPERTS -

JEANNIE SOWERS: EXPERT IN MIDDLE EAST ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS, POLICY AND CONFLICT

FREDRIK MEITON: EXPERT IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

CESAR REBELLON: TERRORISM EXPERT

EVERY VOICE AND
EXPERIENCE IS VALID

Discussion Guidelines

AVOID
GENERALIZING

MAINTAIN
CONFIDENTIALITY TO
THE HIGHEST EXTENT

LISTEN TO
UNDERSTAND AND
AVOID INTERRUPTING

FOCUS ON
DIALOGUE, NOT
DEBATE

FOCUS ON THE
ISSUE, NOT THE
PERSON

Introductions

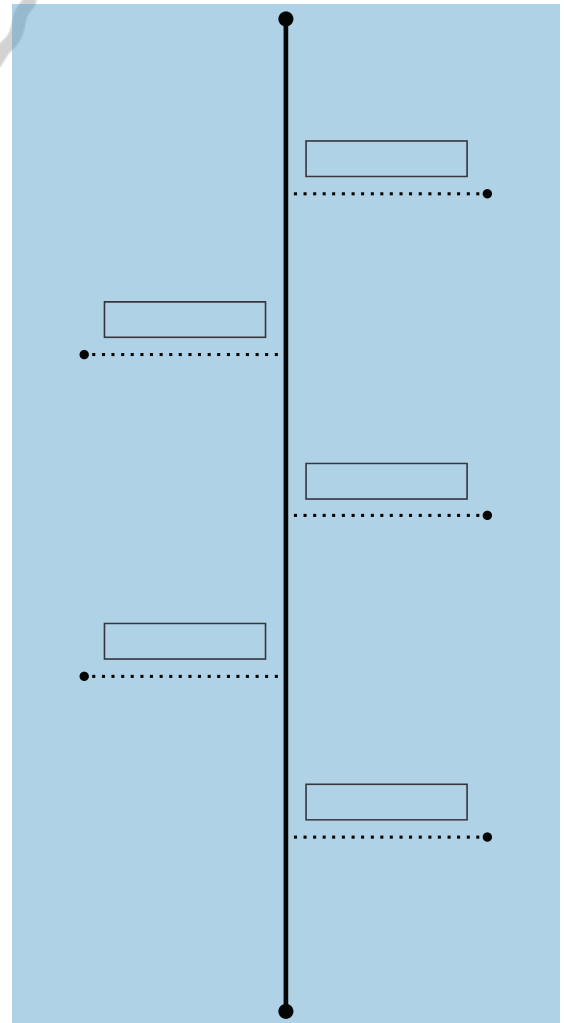
Introduce yourself and tell us something important to you outside of this topic. Share why you are here tonight.

Prompt 1: Tracing the Origins of our Stories

Prepare a chronological narrative of your viewpoints on the right.
What do these messages and events mean to you?
How have these messages and events influenced your thinking?

Your Memorable Messages and Turning Points

Add extra points as you see fit



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Prompt 2: Language Matters

BUILDING A SHARED VOCABULARY

Consider the ways the conflict is sometimes discussed with the words below.

Anti-semitism Collateral Damage Israeli Defense Forces Jerusalem Jihad Occupation Occupied territories Human shields Chosen People

Apartheid Birthright Diaspora Conflict Permits Racism Refugees Reparations Return Wall Zionism

Settlements Peaceful demonstrations The enemy Transitional justice Self-hating Jew

CRITICAL REFLECTION

How do these words make you feel? How have they shaped your thinking? Did you hear any of this language in the stories you shared with each other? How can we talk about this conflict in ways that honor our own stories and the stories of others? Do you feel that some language is more helpful than others when discussing the conflict? What language can we add or eliminate in our discussions with each other?

Prompt 3: Moving Forward

Reflecting on the last two exercises, where do we see commonalities in our stories and experiences? What do we share? What did you learn this evening added to (not replaced) your understanding of the conflict?