

REASONATE DESCRIPTION

WHAT REASONATE IS

Reasonate is an approach to dialogue that's designed to develop and structure the application of key dialogue skills and dispositions, including.

- **A spirit of collaborative disagreement**, including the ability to defend a position while fairly understanding objections to that position.
- **Cognitive flexibility**, including the willingness to revise the questions being asked and the claims being made.
- **Focusing on the positions** being advanced rather than the people advancing the positions.
- **Thinking clearly and critically** both about the claims being made and about the relationships between those claims.
- Offering **support** for claims, suggesting **objections** to claims, and finding **unstated assumptions**.
- Identifying points of **agreement** and **disagreement**.

Reasonate can be framed as a game, or as a method, depending upon the circumstances.

The objective is to help individuals who hold different perspectives to better resonate with each other by understanding the reasoning that supports alternative positions. (Hence the name "Reasonate.")

HOW REASONATE WORKS

Reasonate proceeds as participants write claims and questions on sticky notes and place them on the playing surface.

Writing claims and questions, instead of simply stating them, has several advantages:

- It **makes thinking more careful** by slowing it down.
- It **allows us to represent the relationships between claims** by positioning the claims correctly.
- It **reduces the mental fatigue** produced by keeping track of everything in our head.
- It **reduces negative emotions** by focusing our attention on the reasoning rather than the people advancing the reasoning.