

# RESONATE INSTRUCTIONS

## D PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE

**MATERIALS:** Small sticky notes of three different colors—one color for questions, one color for “Pro” claims, and one color for “Con” claims. Pens. A reasonably large surface on which to place the sticky notes.



### 1. Agree upon a **GOAL** for the dialogue.

- Because **the goal belongs to all parties**, all parties must be able to acknowledge when it’s been achieved. So it can’t be something like ‘make the other side look silly.’
- If the dialogue is held for fun or practice, **the goal might be unrelated to the topic discussed**, e.g., “Develop and practice a set of skills that will help us to have productive conversations.”
- If the dialogue is held to address a particular topic, **the goal might be related to the topic discussed**, e.g., “Decide where to go on vacation,” or “Understand what reasons people give for and against a particular policy.”
- This goal can **evolve** as the dialogue progresses.



### 2. Choose the **QUESTION** to be answered and the **POSITION** to be discussed.

- The **question** can be a pressing issue about which participants have strong, competing views, but it need not be. (The question will be written on a neutrally-colored sticky note.)
- The question can **be revised** as the dialogue progresses.
- The **position** will be an answer to the question. (The position will be written on a “pro-colored” sticky-note.)
- The position can **be revised** as the dialogue progresses.



### 3. Assign **ROLES** for the dialogue.

- One participant or team (“PRO”) agrees to **support** the position and another participant or team (“CON”) agrees to **oppose** the position.
- PRO and CON receive sticky notes of **different colors**.
- Although you may be able to see both sides of an issue, for this activity, you’ll need to **assume a stance and defend it** because that’s a good way to explore the reasons to accept or reject the position. You’ll be able to change your mind and modify your view as you go along, but to get the most of this activity, do your best to defend a position before abandoning it.

## II) DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE



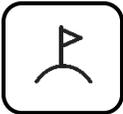
### 1. **STARTING** the dialogue.

- The **first turn** belongs to Pro and will involve Pro
  - writing the **question** to be answered on a neutrally-colored sticky note,
  - writing the **position** under discussion on a “pro-colored” sticky note,
  - placing that note below the question, and
  - providing support for that position by making one or more **Moves to Advance the Dialogue**.
- Turns **alternate** between Pro and Con.



### 2. **CONTINUING** the dialogue.

- During a turn, a participant or team:
  - **Must respond** to any **Request to Improve the Dialogue**.
  - **Must make** one or more **Moves to Advance the Dialogue**.
  - **May make** one or more **Requests to Improve the Dialogue**.
- Participants / teams may **collaborate** during a turn (e.g., Pro and Con might work together to bridge a gap or refine a claim).
- Participants / teams may **remove a line of reasoning** from the board if that line of reasoning has been resolved (perhaps because it has “bottomed out” in basic agreements or disagreements).



### 3. **ENDING** the dialogue.

- The **dialogue ends** when participants / teams agree that the original or amended goal of the dialogue has been achieved or pursued as far as possible.
- “Bonus points” are given for having modified one or more claims or questions, or for having identified more points of agreement than disagreement.

# III MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



## 1. **ASSERT** a claim / **ASK** a question.

- A participant asserts a claim or asks a question by writing it on a sticky note.
- Each note should contain *only one* claim or question.
- Often, the only question on the board will be the first question, but participants can place follow-up questions below a claim if they wish. Answers will then be placed, as claims, below that question and subject to support and objection.
- Ideally, every claim will be related to a question on the board or to another claim on the board, but participants may place free-standing claims which can then be subject to discussion or included in the reasoning if other participants wish.



## 2. **SUPPORT** a claim.

- When a sticky note of one color is placed below a sticky note of the same color, it supports the note above it.
- **Tip:** Ask, “Does this note give us to reason to think that the note above it is true?”



## 3. **OBJECT** to a claim.

- When a sticky note of one color is placed below a sticky note of a different color, it objects to the note above it.
- **Tip:** Ask, “Does this note give us to reason to think that the note above it is false?”



## 4. **BRIDGE** the gap between claims.

- Placing a note side-by-side a note of the same color bridges the gap between that note and the note above it. This reveals the **unstated assumption**.
- When sticky notes are placed side-by-side, they work together to **support** the note above them (if the note above them is of the same color) or to **object** to the note above them (if the note above them is of different color).



## 5. **REVISE** a claim / question.

- At any point, a participant can revise a claim they’ve made or question they’ve posed.
- **Tip:** If it starts to feel like the participants are talking past each other, check to see if you are interpreting one of the questions or claims on the board differently. If so, you can revise that question or claim.

**Note:** Moves can be combined during a single turn. This means that **a participant may place more than one sticky note during a turn.**

## IV) REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



### 1. **REFOCUS** on the claims / question.

- If a participant thinks that another participant is objecting to claim by focusing on individuals who assert the claim rather than the claim itself, they can request that the objection be retracted or reworded to focus on the claim.
- If a participant thinks that the dialogue is straying from the question at issue, the participant can request that it return to the question or that the question be revised.



### 2. **BREAK DOWN** complex claims.

- If a participant notices that another participant wrote more than one claim on a sticky note, they can request that the content of that sticky note be divided over multiple notes.



### 3. **BRIDGE THE GAP** between claims.

- If a participant doesn't see how one claim supports or objects to another claim, they can request that the other participant bridge the gap.
- **Tip:** If you want to object to a claim but realize that your objection doesn't show that the claim is false, bridge the nearby gaps and see if your objection targets one of those claims.



### 4. **REFINE** unclear claims / questions

- If a participant finds a claim or question to be unclear, or thinks that another participant has misunderstood one of their claims or questions, they can request that the claim or question be refined.



### 5. **FACT CHECK** disputed claims.

- If one participant thinks that a claim is untrue, the participant can request that participants work collaboratively to identify the facts. If there is insufficient time to identify the facts, the participants will note that the facts need to be checked later.
- **Tip:** Some fact claims are empirical (e.g., "Over 30% of college students have used AI to generate an entire essay."). Other fact claims are ethical (e.g., "It's unethical for students to use AI to generate essays.") Empirical fact claims are easier to check, but ethical facts claims are often where important disagreements lie.
- **Tip:** If Pro and Con **agree** to claim, they can note that by putting a **checkmark** on it. If Pro and Con **disagree** about a claim, and have exhausted the reasons for or against it, they can put an "**X**" mark on it to indicate that it is a point of basic disagreement.