

Arab-European-American Dialogue

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Morning 1 [20 minutes] Day 1 - Who Are We?
[Identities and interests]

Purpose: Our purpose in this dialogue is to explore the relationship between our cultures. We are using the word "culture" ~~simply~~ ^{broadly} to note that we come from the Arab world, from Europe, and from the United States of America.

There have been times of positive interaction among these cultures. Today there is serious tension. Peace, ~~and~~ security, and progress in the world require that we work our way toward a creative relationship.

This process of sustained dialogue is different from other meetings because it focuses on the overall relationship between our cultures. This meeting is not about government policies. Until we discover the foundations for a sound relationship, government policies cannot succeed. Analyzing the relationship among our cultures takes time and patience. We will hold three meetings this year as an experiment to see whether we can deepen, broaden, and extend the dialogue over time.

To begin, we need to agree on ground rules for how we will talk together.

[2 hours] [Elicit terms of a covenant]

Introduction: We need to begin getting to know each other.

May I suggest ~~the following approach~~ that each of us choose 5 or 6 words to describe who we are and what is most important to us as human beings. I will start in order to demonstrate what I have in mind. Then I will stop to give you a moment to reflect on what you want to say, ~~over~~ ^{over} ↓

↑ This is who
^ I am:

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- As a white male in the U.S., I realize that just being a male has given me certain position and privilege, some of it not earned or justified.
- As an Anglo-Saxon, I represent what has been the dominant culture in my country, although I know that will not be true for my grandchildren. I also know that this culture ^{has} in the past 400 years made significant efforts to impose itself on countless people around the world.
- I am Protestant Christian. More important, I regard myself as a spiritual person. I seek that quality in others. I grew up as a "person of the Book." But I do not claim to know the only way to religious truth. I respect others who are sincere in their expressions of religious conviction.
- I define my identity as an American in terms of a commitment to a ~~specific~~ democratic way of organizing human relationships in society. That organization is designed to offer each human being ~~the~~ the opportunity (1) to achieve her or his fullest potential and (2) to make her or his contribution to the public good. For me, politics is about relationship, not only about power, and politics begins with each person accepting her or his personal responsibility for making the world a better place.
- As a professional, I would describe myself as a peacemaker.
- In my personal life as a son, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, I have enjoyed deeply personal, loving relationships.



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[Maybe Randa makes her introduction, again to model.]
We open the floor now to those who are ready to introduce themselves. I think we can do this in in somewhat less than 5 minutes each.

[10 minutes]
Chair's reflections on what we have already learned about each other.

[10 minutes]
Chair's overview of this workshop's agenda and beyond.

Afternoon 1 [Perceptions and interests]

Cultures [5 minutes]. As we have grown into mature men and women, what have we respected most about the others' cultures? (We are using the word "culture" in this dialogue broadly to refer to the fact that we are Arab, European, American.)

[Add follow up questions.]

Closure on the day. What has this day's dialogue revealed about what we ~~to~~ in all three cultures hold to be valuable?

Homework: Refine your list of things we all hold valuable.

(over)
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Day 2 - Why do we interact as we do? 4

Morning 2 [Perceptions, ^{power,} and patterns of interaction]

Possible opening and follow-up questions:

- What have we come not to respect about each other?
- What have we come to fear from each other? How do we feel threatened?
- How does power operate in our relationship? How do we each define power? ~~What~~ What is the essence of the other's power in relation to us?
- What is destructive about our relationship?
- What is effective/ineffective in our communication?

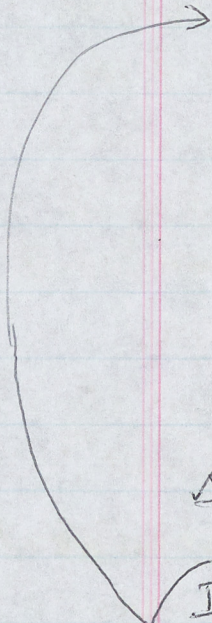
Afternoon 2 [Patterns of interaction]

- What historic ~~experi~~ interactions made our relationships what they are?
- What went wrong?

Day 3 - What is our relationship? / 5

Morning 3

In what respects is there a clash of identities?



Afternoon 3

(Is there any thing we would like to accomplish together?)

Where are the relationships susceptible to change?

Project between meetings [cumulative agenda]

[To be developed]