

Topic Escalation Heat Levels

HEAT LEVEL ZERO

Questions designed to encourage participants to get to know each other. **Example questions:**

- *Why are you at this discourse group meeting? What do you hope to gain by participating?*
- *Are you generally happy with the current state of civil discourse at your school? If not, how do you think the state of civil discourse could improve?*

HEAT LEVEL 🍊

A topic that likely causes only a little sensitivity but still provokes debate. **Example questions:**

- *Should the United Nations have more power to enforce its policy?*
- *Should the government institute a “carbon tax”?*

HEAT LEVEL 🍊🍊

A topic that invokes some sensitivity and emotional investment. **Example questions:**

- *When should the U.S. government intervene in the lives of Americans? Is the government solely tasked with preserving the life, liberty, and property of its citizens, or is it tasked with something more?*
- *Are wealthy people morally obligated to participate in philanthropy? Should the government tell the wealthy how to spend their money?*

HEAT LEVEL 🍊🍊🍊

A topic that causes great sensitivity and possible emotional discomfort through disagreement.

Example questions:

- *Should nations build walls or barriers along their borders? Or should the world progress towards a future of open borders?*
- *Should hate speech be considered free speech?*

