

'MULTIPLE IDENTITIES' EXERCISE

"I contain multitudes," the poet Walt Whitman once said famously.

So do we all, Walt, so do we all. Each of us is many things, depending on where we are, the day of the week, who we're with.

As preparation for our conversations, we ask you to think a little bit about the various identities you hold. Which are the most important to your sense of who you are, the ones you hold closest to your heart? A bit further down the priority list, which likes, dislikes, tastes, habits or hobbies are part of what makes you "you," particularly in the eyes of others?

We ask you to use the space below to jot down a few of the identities you contain. Don't over-think it. Anything that comes to mind is useful. It will help clarify the experiences, values and beliefs you bring to this discussion.

Because we'd never ask you to do something we wouldn't do ourselves, here are sample "Multiple Identities" lists from the folks who'll lead the our dialogues: Chris Satullo and Harris Sokoloff of the PA Project for Civic Engagement.

Having done this exercise often, Chris and Harris can tell you that some items on the list and their order change a little each time they do it

Chris: Husband, father, grandfather, Christian, journalist, tilter at windmills, civic dialogue guy, Philadelphian, Cleveland sports fan (i.e. lifetime of suffering), Millennials' mentor, bad golfer, dull dresser, Netflix binger.

Harris: Jewish, teacher, father, public deliberation guy, squash player, bike rider, carless man, walker, bearded, Philly sports fan, mystery reader, book listener, would-be violin player, cook, gardener, tinkerer, philosopher.

What's your list?

GROUND RULES

1. Listen. It's as important as talking. To *listen* is to lean in softly, with a willingness to be changed by what you hear.
2. Make space for all voices. Everyone participates. No one dominates.
3. Ask questions -- to understand, not to rebut or defeat.
4. Try to build on each other's ideas.
5. Be honest, but not mean.
6. It's fine to disagree. But if disagreement arises, don't try either to win it or to paper it over. Explore it.
7. Avoid fact wars.
8. Last rule the same as the first: *Listen. Then pause before speaking.*