

From Conflict to Collaboration: How Productive Public Discourse Strengthens Local Governments and Workplace Culture

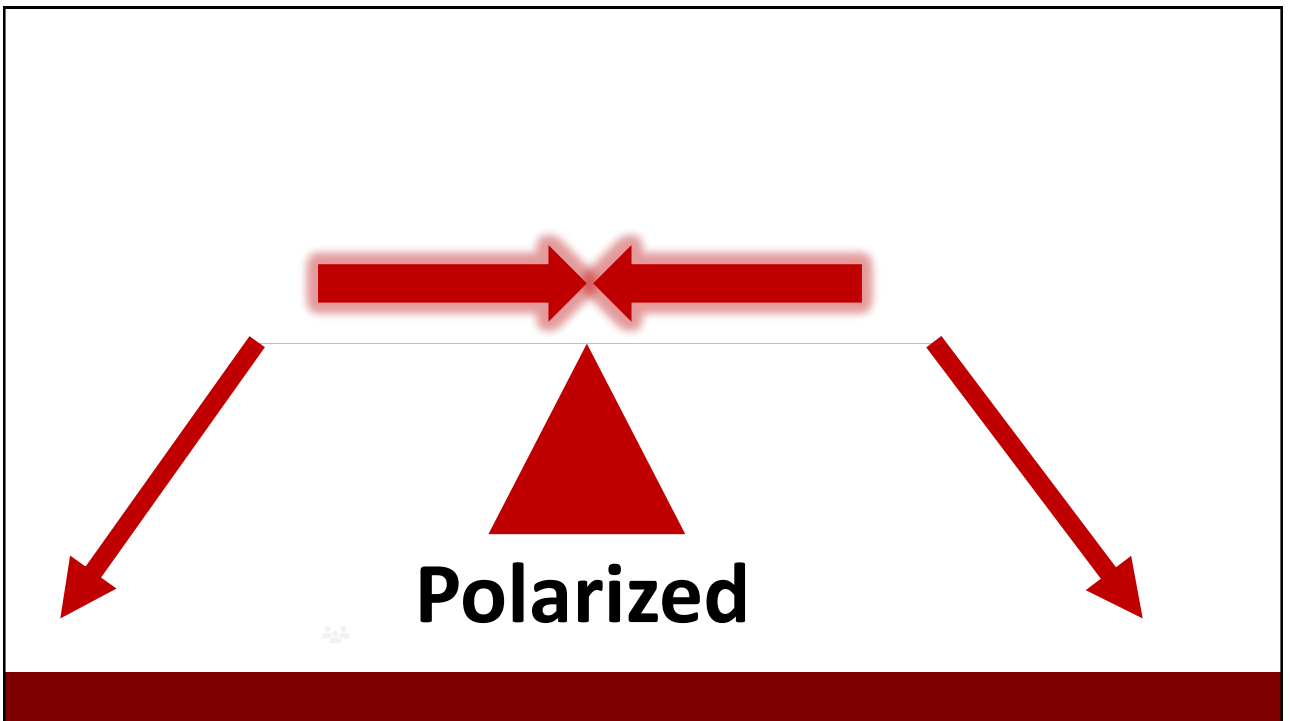
Leila Brammer, Ph.D.
Director of Curriculum



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"The essential need is the improvement of the methods and conditions of debate, discussion and persuasion. That is THE problem of the public."

John Dewey, 1927
The Public and its Problems

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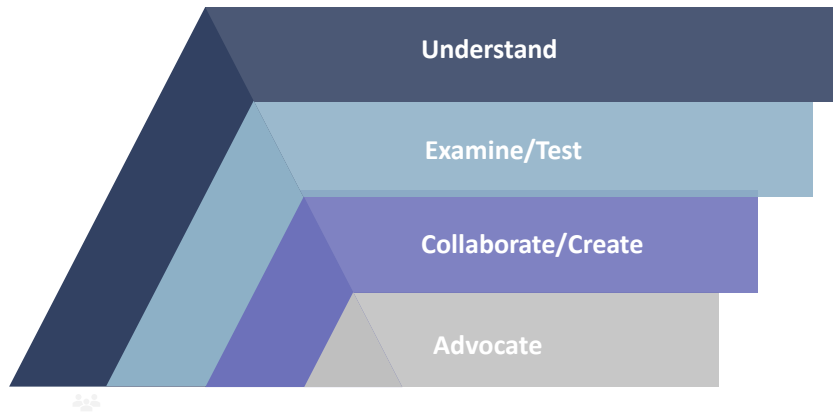
Overview

Discourse:
Process
Problems
Potentials

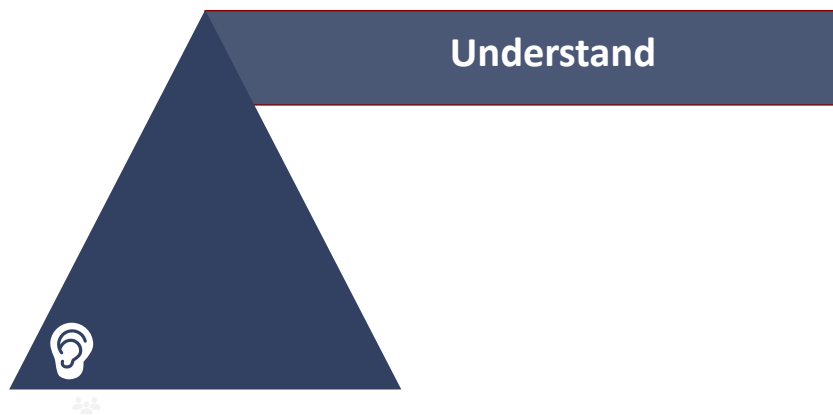


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Process of Democratic Discourse



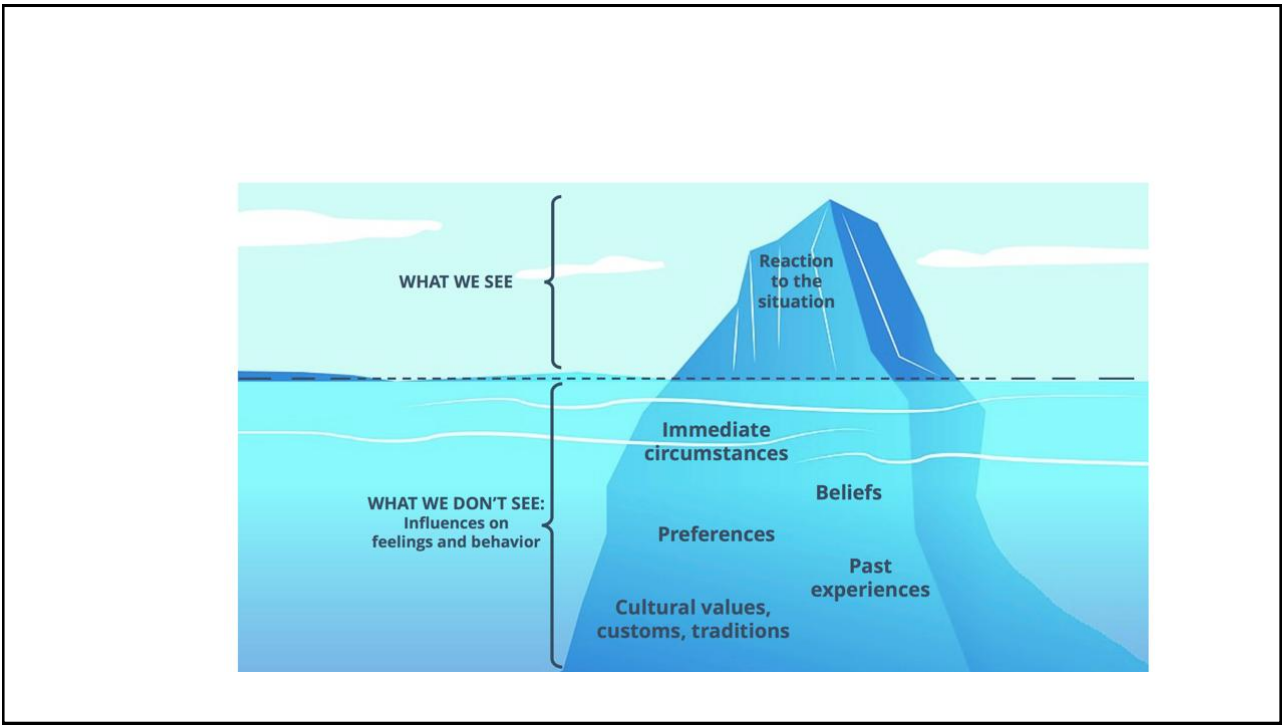
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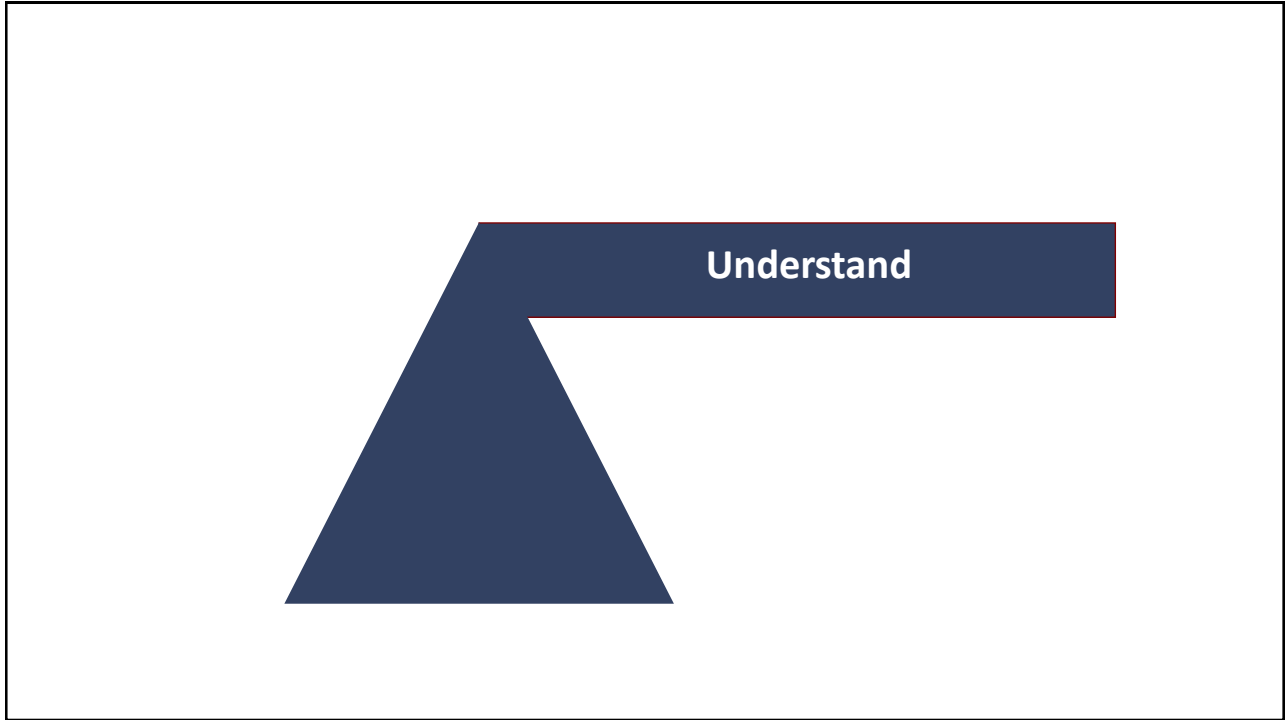
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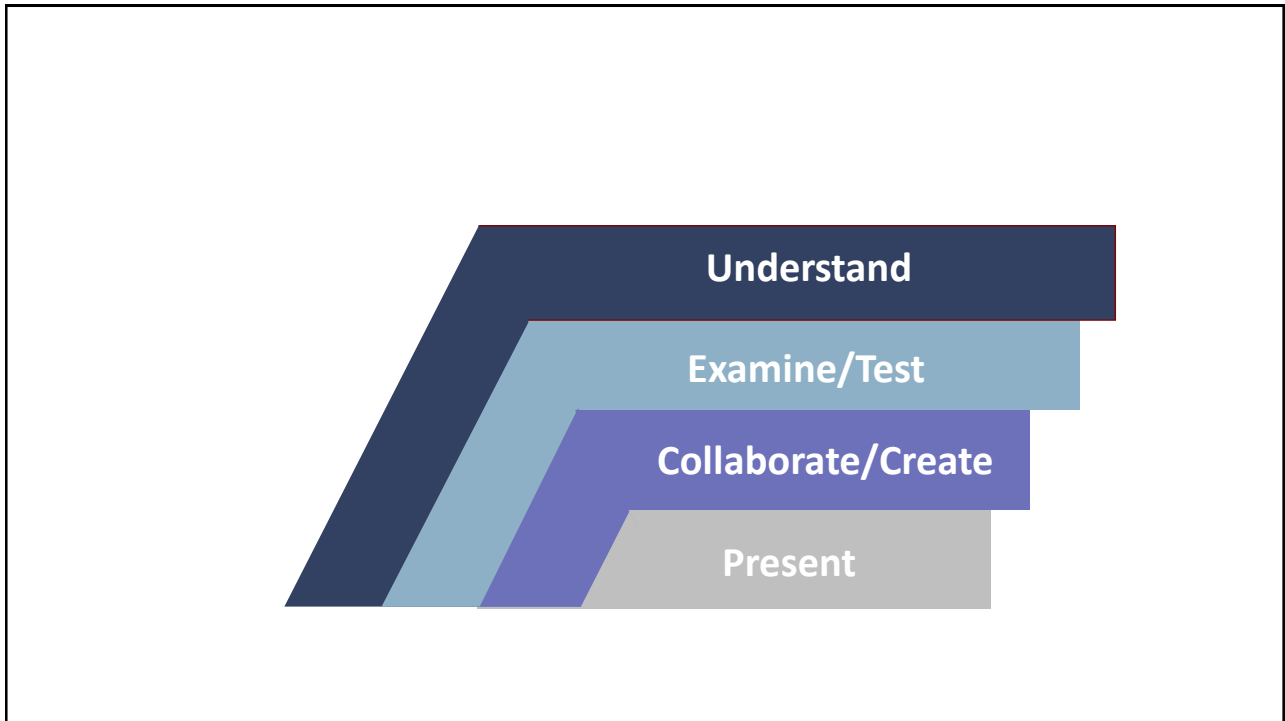
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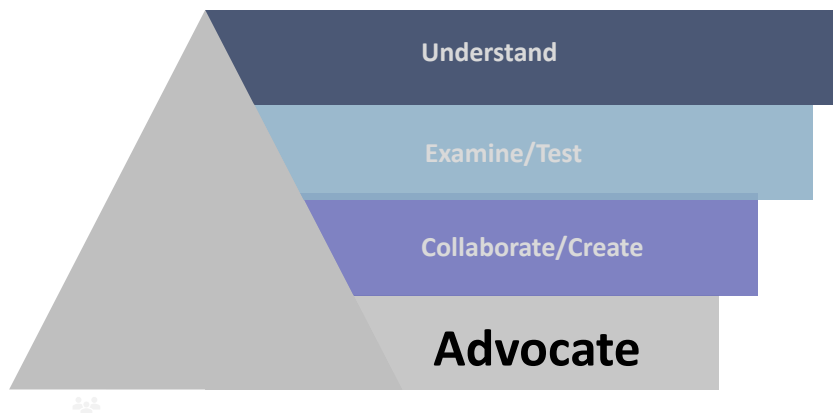
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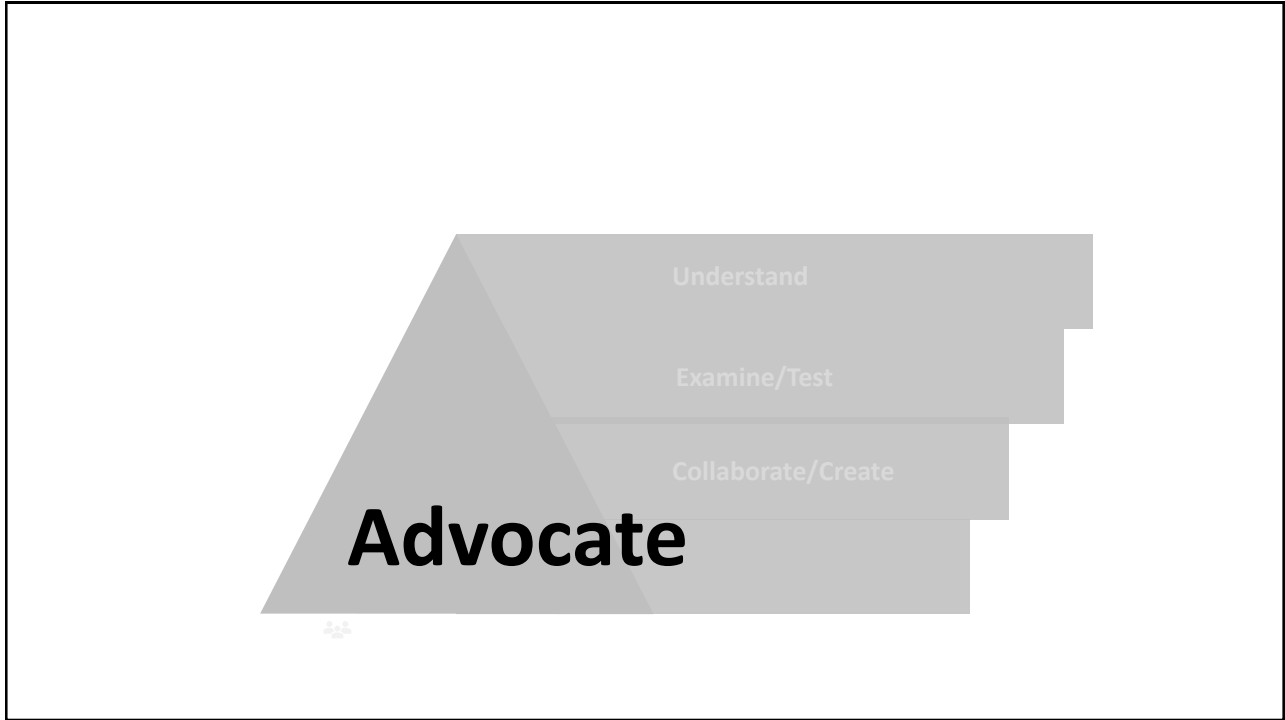
John Dewey, 1927
The Public and its Problems

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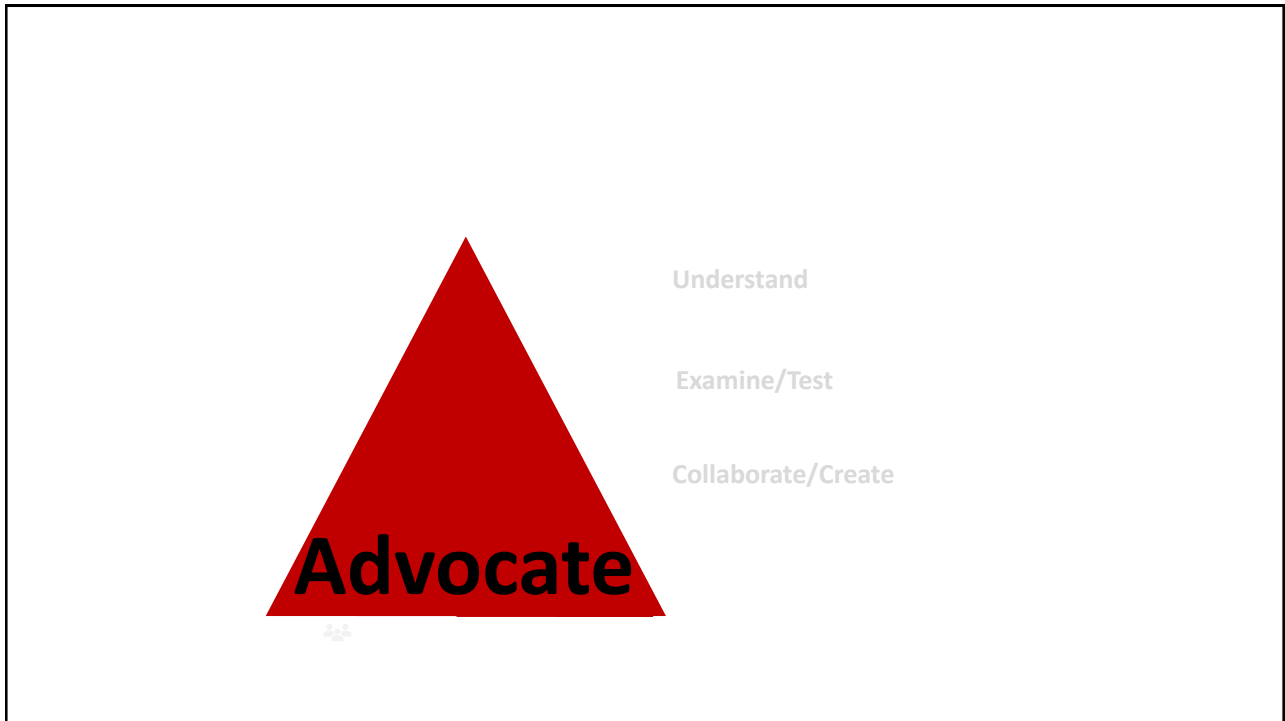
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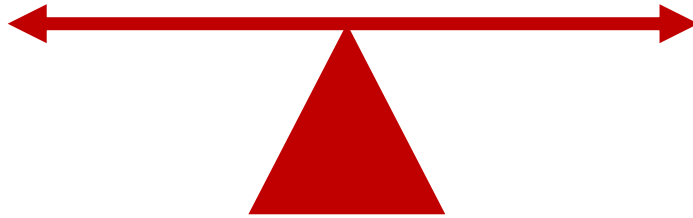
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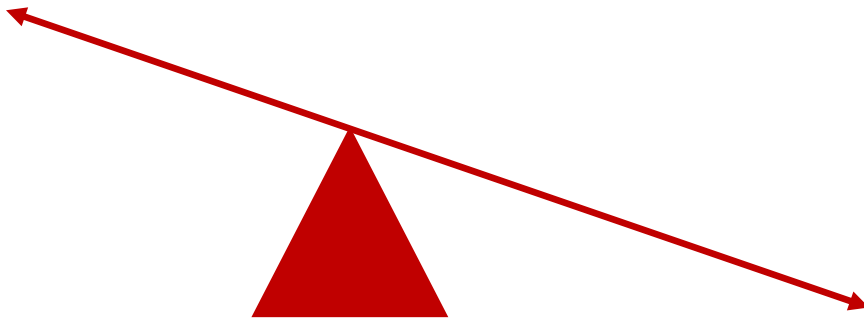


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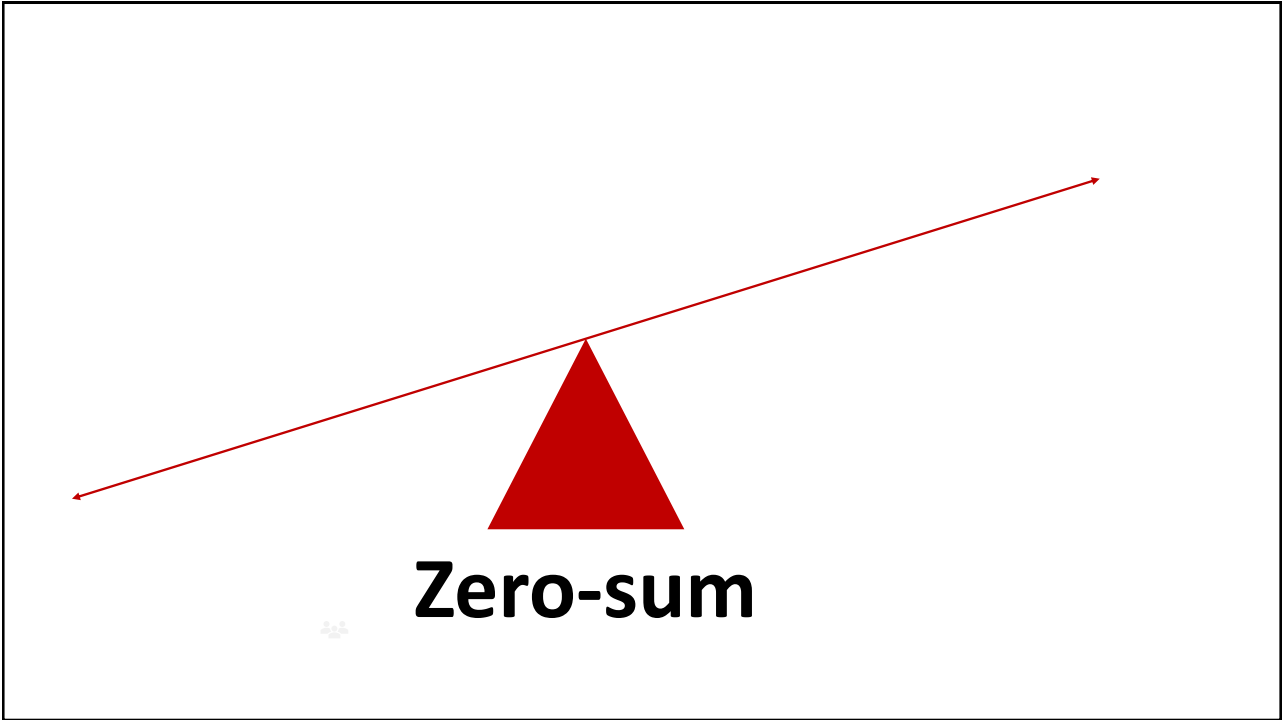
Two-sided Debate

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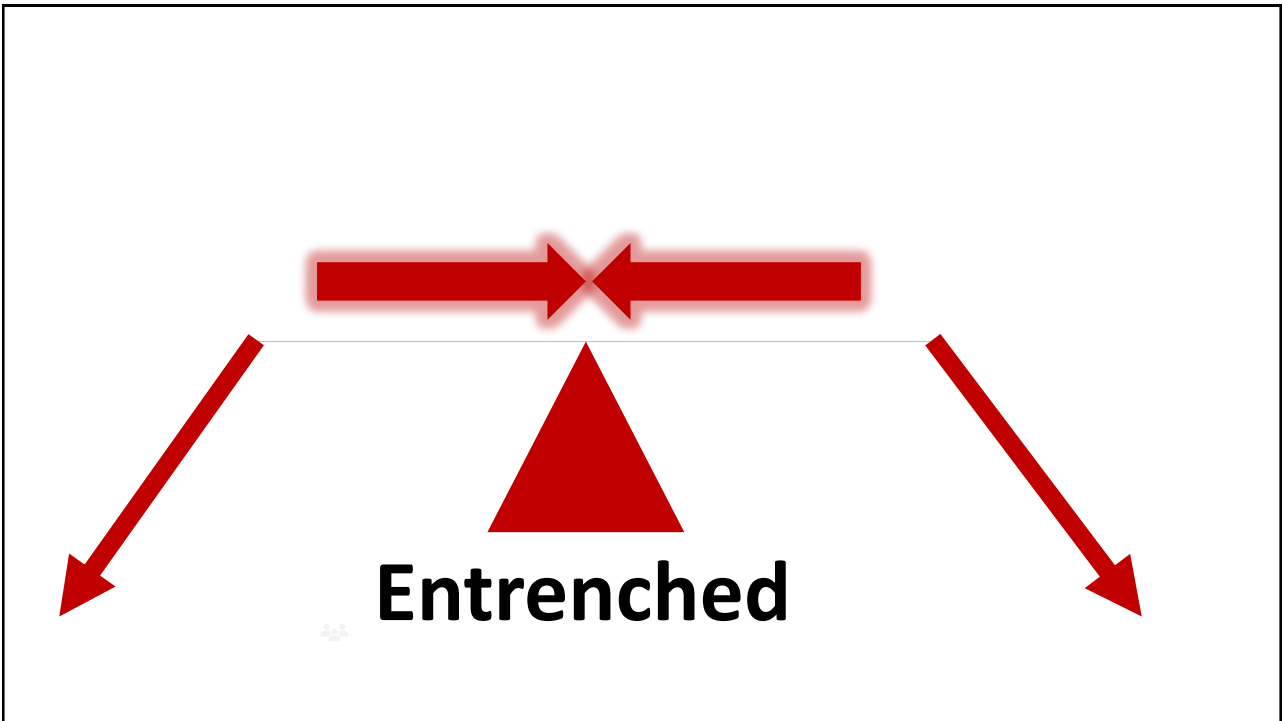


Binary

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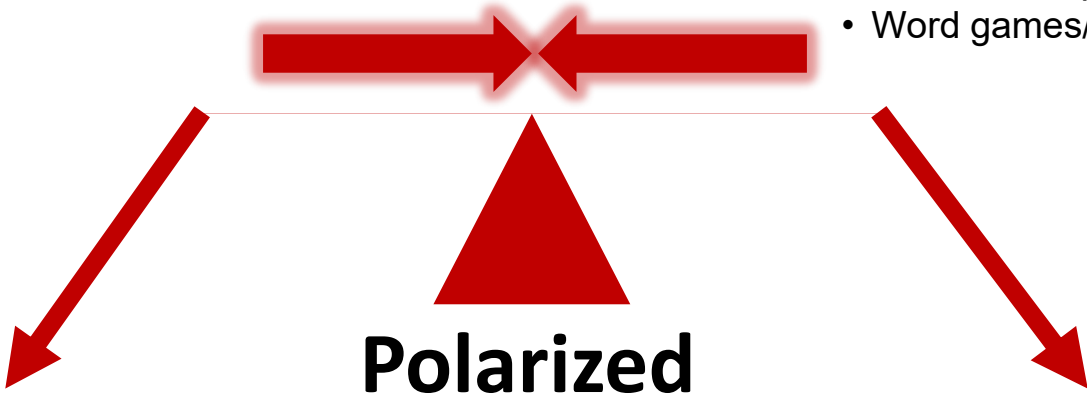
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Four Moves

- Make own case
- Attack other argumen
- Attack other person
- Word games/traps

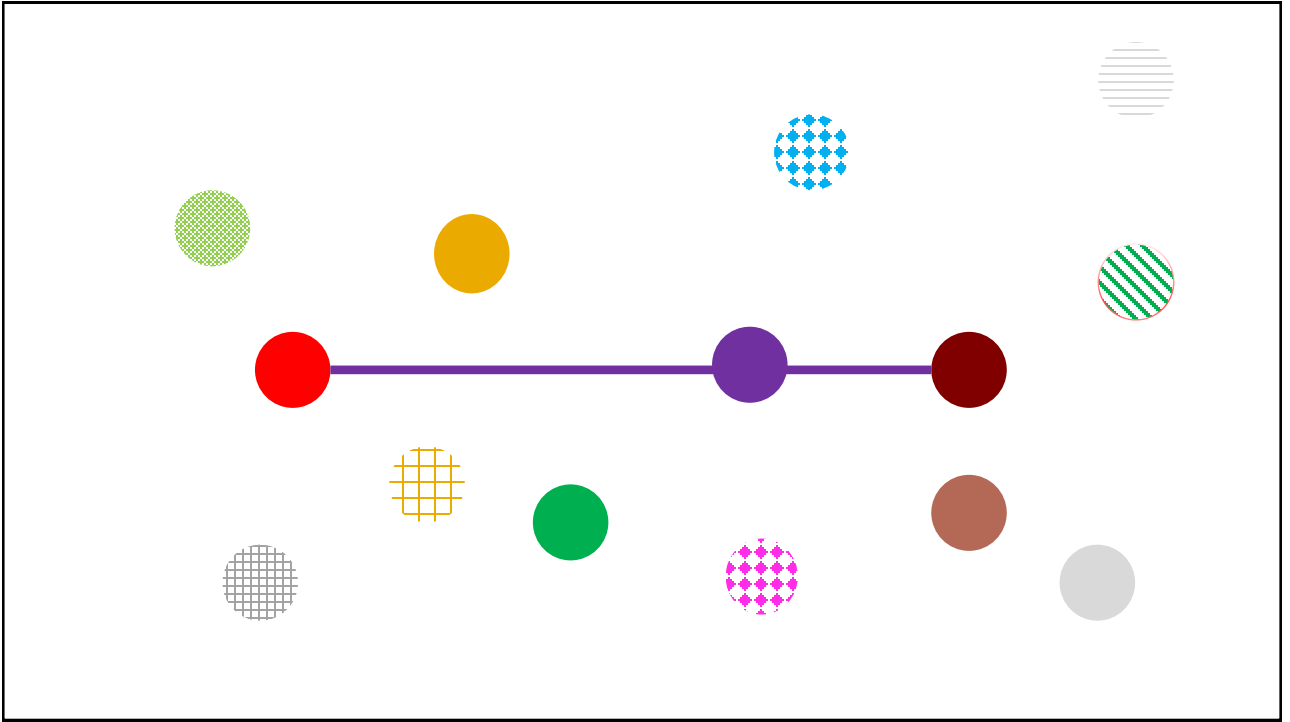


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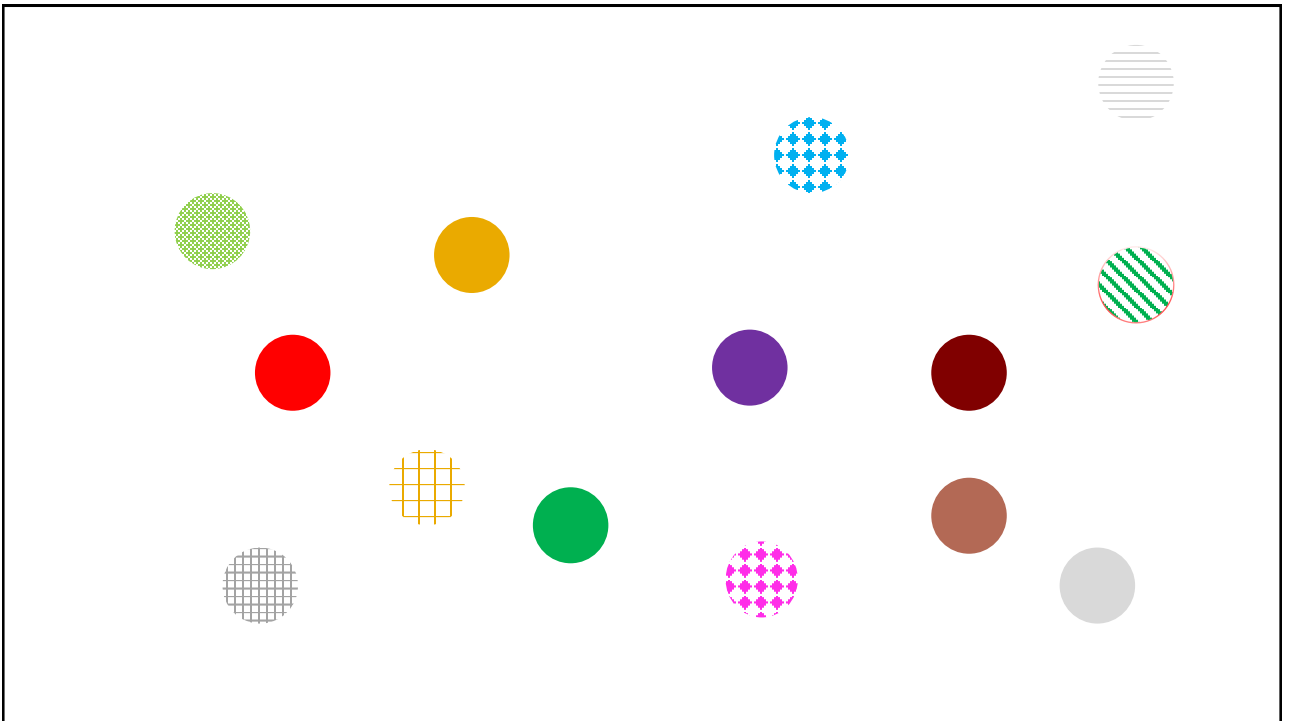
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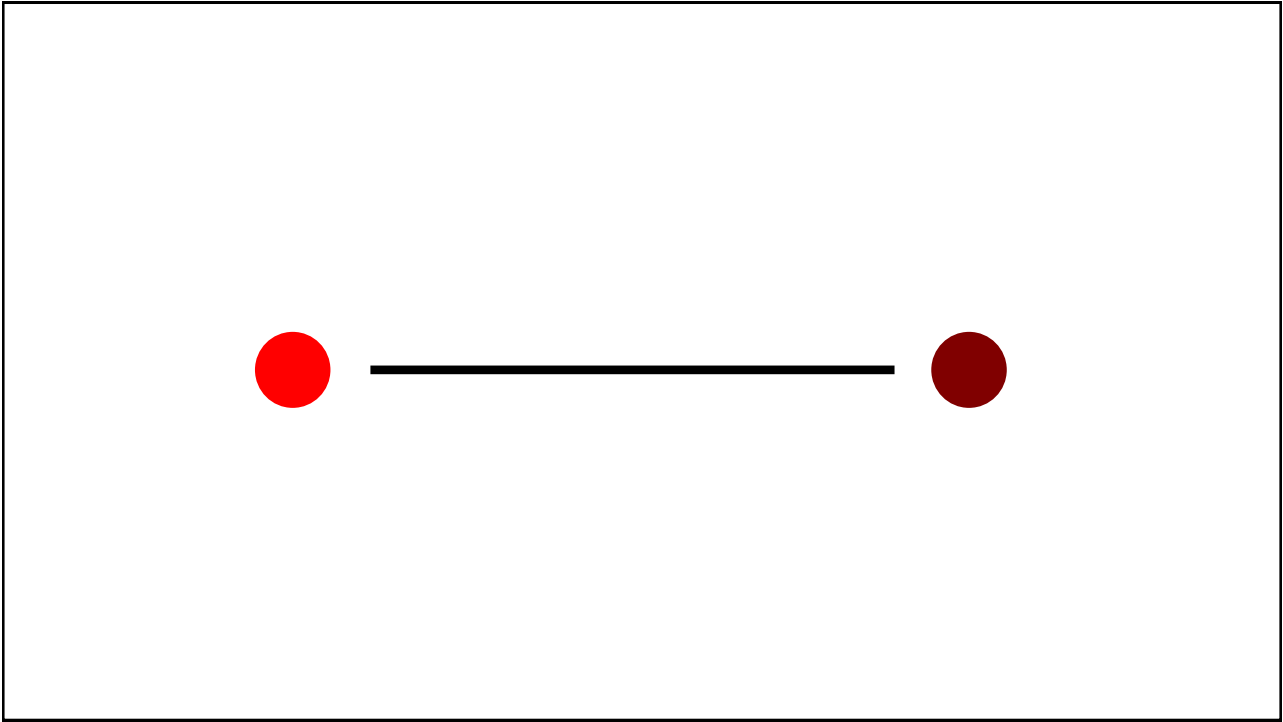
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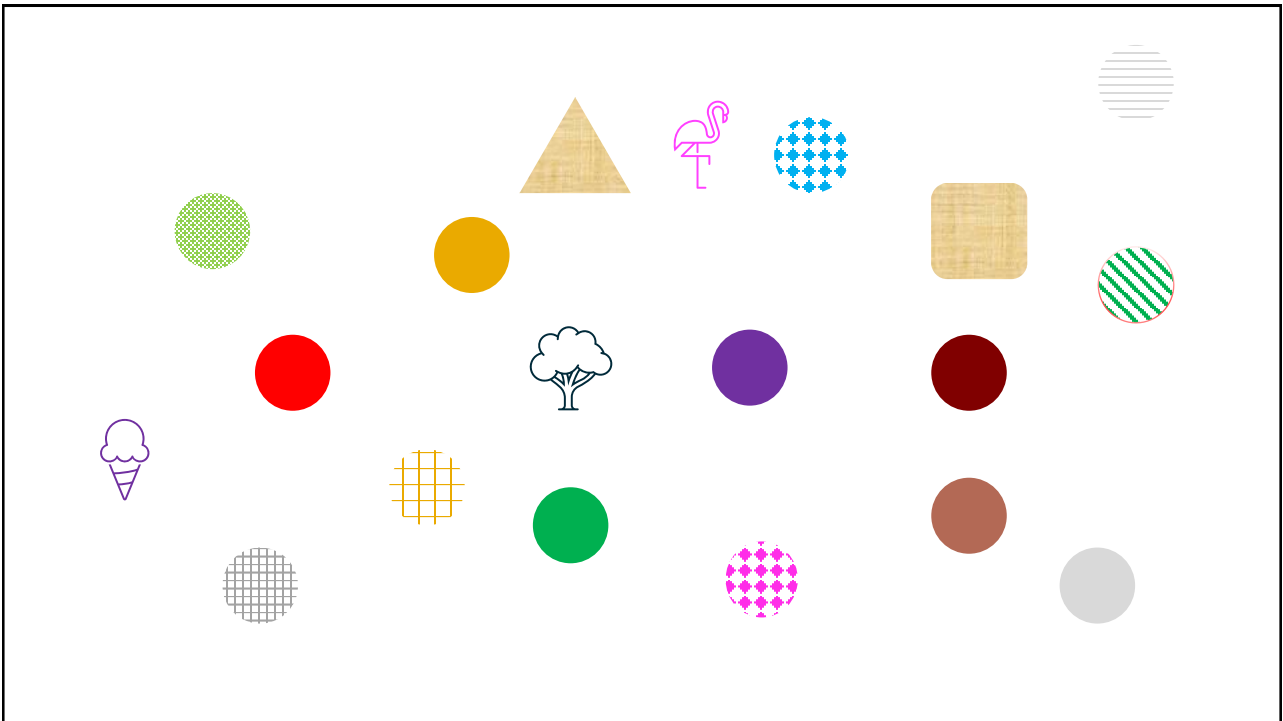
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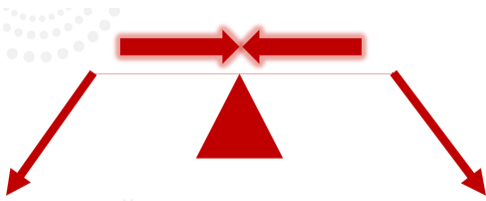
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**Reactive/Division
Sympathetic Nervous
System
Fight/Flight/Freeze
Adrenaline/Cortisol**

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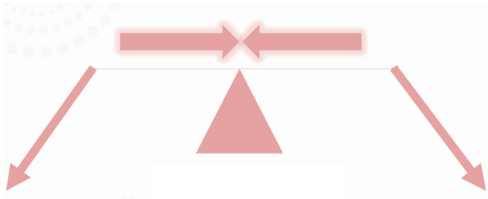
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Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must prioritize building social connection the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues such as tobacco, obesity, and substance use disorders. Together, we can build a country that's healthier, more resilient, less lonely, and more connected.

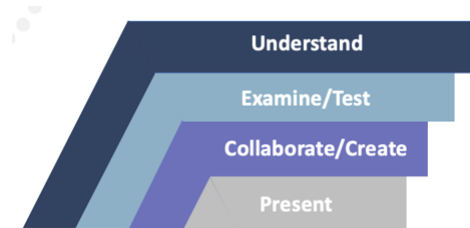
**U.S. Surgeon General
Dr. Vivek Murthy, 2023**

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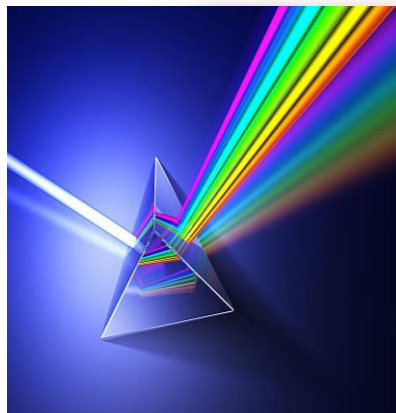
Reactive/Division
Sympathetic Nervous
System
Fight/Flight/Freeze
Adrenaline/Cortisol



Understand
Examine/Test
Collaborate/Create
Present

Responsive/Connection
Parasympathetic Nervous
System
Rest and Digest
Oxytocin

Transforming Discourse



Understand

Examine/Test

Collaborate/Create

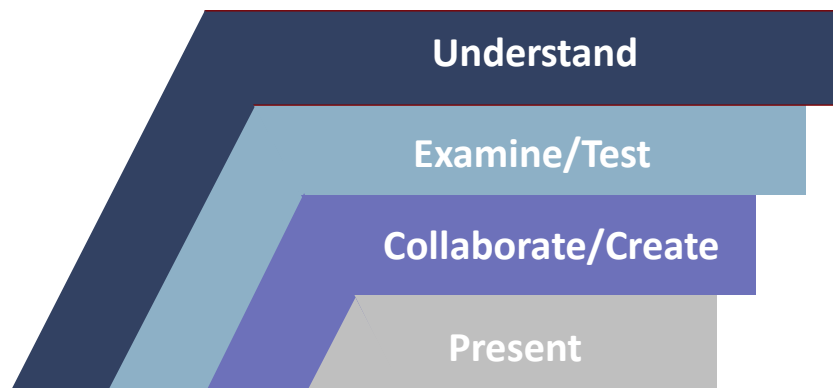
Present

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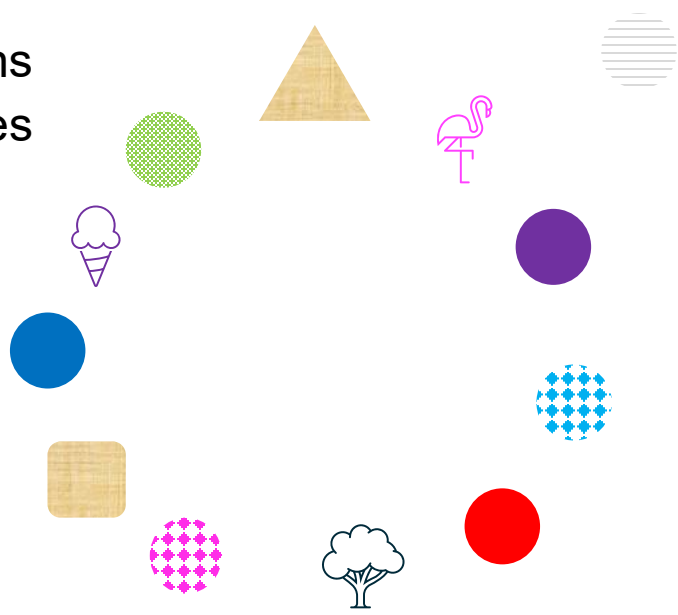
Process—Model Community Processes



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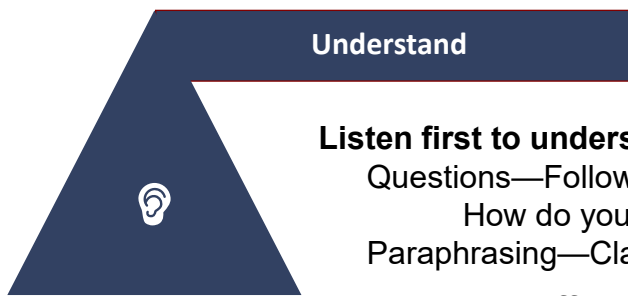
Structuring Decisions Multiple Perspectives

Establish Space
Start with understanding
Open questions
Sequential contributions
Listening
Name the issues



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Engaged Listening



Listen first to understand not to argue

Questions—Following versus leading

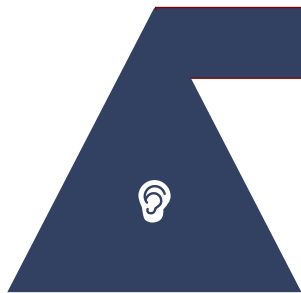
How do you see this? Why?

Paraphrasing—Clarify understanding

Name Issues/Differences—What are the differences?

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Public Engagement



Understand

Examples

Enhance Public Participation

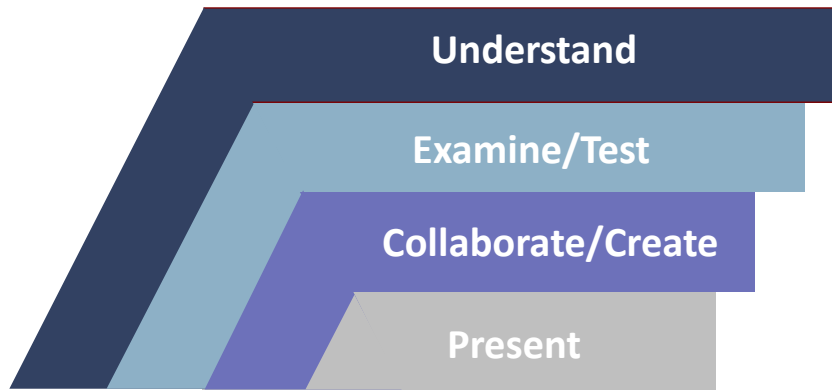
Work through Division

Navigate Expertise

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Questions?

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Thank you!

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