

The Dialogue Rendezvous

John Girard

The Dialogue Rendezvous is a trusted environment in which participants can explore new ideas, learn about our world, and engage in high fidelity conversation. The Dialogue Rendezvous methodology is built on the solid foundation of the TED talk theme of *Ideas Worth Spreading* and the World Café design principles.

A unique aspect of the Dialogue Rendezvous is the *Sageless Stage*. By using TED talk videos as the catalyst for the dialogue we eliminate the impact of having the guru in the room. As exciting as it sometimes is to host experts, the reality is many participants become star struck and do not ask the tough questions. The Dialogue Rendezvous methodology ensures that the participants hear from experts but can engage in dialogue with fellow participants but outside the earshot of the expert.

A Dialogue Rendezvous session would normally be one hour. A typical session would include:

- The facilitator provides a very brief introduction to the general theme and the specific video we will watch. (5 minutes)
- Viewing of a TED talk. Most TED talks are 18 to 20 minutes, which ensures the delivery is concise and to the point. (20 minutes)
- A very brief explanation of the rules for next 30 minutes:
 - Participants should limit each comment to one minute or less (no longwinded diatribes permitted)
 - Allow other participants to share before offering a subsequent comment
 - There are no correct answers to the prompts, so participants are encouraged to share their beliefs with no fear of consternation
 - Piggybacking on ideas is encouraged
 - Polite disagreement is welcome
- After the group viewing of the video, participants break into smaller groups of six to eight people and have a 10-minute roundtable discussion. The facilitator will help folks form groups if necessary. A set of questions (prompts) will be available to start the discussion though groups are encouraged to discuss the issues that are of the most interest. (10 minutes)
- After 10 minutes a bell rings to signify the end of the first round.
- One person remains at each table and the remainder of the participants move to another table. The movement is random and it is completely fine if a few people move together to a new table. The facilitator will help guide people. (10 minutes)
- After another 10-minute session the bell rings

- The entire group reassembles into a sharing circle. The facilitator teases out two or three interesting *conclusions* from the group discussions. Ideally we stimulated discussions that will continue well into the day. (10 minutes)
- Time permitting we conclude with a very short TED talk (5 Minutes)

Recommended TED talks:

1. Ken Robinson: How schools kill creativity. (20 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html
2. Wade Davis: Dreams from endangered cultures (22 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/wade_davis_on_endangered_cultures.html
3. Dan Pink: The puzzle of motivation (19 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation.html
4. Sheryl Sandberg: Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders (15 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl_sandberg_why_we_have_too_few_women_leaders.html
5. Stanley McChrystal: Listen, learn ... then lead (16 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/stanley_mcchrystal.html
6. Sugata Mitra: Build a School in the Cloud (22 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/sugata_mitra_build_a_school_in_the_cloud.html
7. Pam Warhurst: How we can eat our landscapes (13 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/pam_warhurst_how_we_can_eat_our_landscapes.html

Recommended short (closer) TED talks

1. Derek Sivers: Weird, or just different? (4 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/derek_sivers_weird_or_just_different.html
2. Stacey Kramer: The best gift I ever survived (4 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/stacey_kramer_the_best_gift_i_ever_survived.html
3. Derek Sivers: How to start a movement
http://www.ted.com/talks/derek_sivers_how_to_start_a_movement.html
4. Tom Wujec: Build a tower, build a team (7 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_build_a_tower.html
5. Terry Moore: How to tie your shoes (3 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/terry_moore_how_to_tie_your_shoes.html

References

1. About TED: <http://www.ted.com/pages/about>
2. World Café Methodology: <http://www.theworldcafe.com/method.html>