Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

About Table Talk
Families often want to discuss news stories and other timely societal events. It's a great opportunity to engage children in rich conversation, share important values and encourage lifelong interest in the news. These talks can happen on the way to school, during a walk or over a meal. Research shows that dinnertime conversation benefits the health, emotional and academic outcomes for children of all ages. Each Table Talk guide below includes a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas to take action and additional resources.

Here are some tips for discussion:
George Floyd, Racism and Law Enforcement

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African American man, died while being arrested by the police. A bystander video recording of the incident showed that a white police officer pinned Floyd to the ground while he was handcuffed. The police officer's knee pressed into the back of Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes, even after Floyd lost consciousness. On the video, Floyd was heard saying, "Please, I can’t breathe. My stomach hurts. My neck hurts. Everything hurts. ... (I need) water or something. Please. Please. I can't breathe, officer. ... I cannot breathe. I cannot breathe." In a statement, the Minneapolis Police Department said that officers had responded to a call about a man suspected of forgery.

The incident was shared widely on social media. This led to community and national outrage, an F.B.I. civil rights investigation and the firing of the officer, Derek Chauvin and three other officers who were also at the scene. On May 29, Chauvin was arrested and charged with third degree murder and manslaughter. Prosecutors said the investigation into the three other officers is ongoing.

Engage your family in a discussion about the killing of George Floyd, how bias and hate escalate and the larger context of systemic racism.
Previous Table Talks

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

**How Systemic Racism Impacts Coronavirus Racial Disparities**

Talk with your family about the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on communities of color and how systemic racism is a contributing factor.

![Image of a family wearing masks](https://iStock)

**Draw Me Safe: Coloring and Conversation about a Pandemic**

Use Ricardo Morales’ "What to Do in a Pandemic... Our Cousins Know" coloring series to be creative, pass the time, relieve stress and engage in family conversations with children about how to stay safe and well during the coronavirus pandemic.
Discuss how societal inequities are highlighted and perpetuated by the impact of the Coronavirus.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

COVID-19 and Societal Inequities
Discuss how societal inequities are highlighted and perpetuated by the impact of the Coronavirus.

Elections, Gender and Bias
Discuss the 2020 presidential election and the extent to which sexism plays a role in this unprecedented campaign.
Engage in a family discussion about the different ways that heterosexism manifests in society and schools and explore ways to address it.

**What Is Heterosexism and What Can I Do About It?**

Engage in a family discussion about the different ways that heterosexism manifests in society and schools and explore ways to address it.

**Election Polls**

Talk with your family members about how polls inform, influence and impact elections.
Talk with your family about the importance of diverse representations and visibility in the media.

**Tools and Strategies**

**Diversity in Media and Why Visibility Matters**

Talk with your family about the importance of diverse representations and visibility in the media.

**Tools and Strategies**

**Gender-Neutral Pronouns Make Headlines**

Engage in a family discussion about the use of "they" and "them" as a gender-neutral pronoun.
This family discussion guide shares current information about the state of antisemitism in the U.S. today.

**Antisemitism Today**

This family discussion guide shares current information about the state of antisemitism in the U.S. today.

**The Little Mermaid, Diversity and Bias**
Family discussion guide about the recent controversy about the casting of an African-American woman in The Little Mermaid.

Tools and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about mass shootings, violence, guns and gun laws.

**Gun Violence and Mass Shootings**

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about mass shootings, violence, guns and gun laws.

![Image of a family](https://iStock.com/Bbjeter/CC BY-SA 3.0)
**Stonewall and LGBTQ Equity**

Talk with your family about the Stonewall uprising, which took place on June 28, 1969 and is viewed by many as sparking the movement for LGBTQ rights in the U.S.

![Image of Stonewall National Monument](https://example.com/stonewall-monument.jpg)

**Tools and Strategies**

**Slurs and Biased Language (en Español)**

Slurs and other biased language have become commonplace. What are they and how can we address them in order to prevent the next generation from perpetuating this offensive language?
Kyle Korver, a basketball player with the Utah Jazz, writes an essay about racism and white privilege. Discuss the essay with your youth using our Table Talk parent/family discussion guide.

Nick Youngson/CC BY-SA 3.0

Women's Soccer Team Takes a Stand
Women in sports face a wide range of inequalities. Talk with your family about the lawsuit the U.S. women’s soccer team filed against the federation that governs soccer in the U.S., which cites "institutionalized gender discrimination."

There has been a heightened awareness of and discussion around sexual harassment and sexual assault. Use this discussion on Gillette’s ad about gender roles and masculinity to talk about these issues with your family.

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Gillette’s New Ad: ‘The Best Men Can Be’**

There has been a heightened awareness of and discussion around sexual harassment and sexual assault. Use this discussion on Gillette’s ad about gender roles and masculinity to talk about these issues with your family.
Tools and Strategies

Shooting at a Pittsburgh Synagogue

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about the deadly shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, antisemitism and hate.

Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks

Tools and Strategies

Nike’s Ad and Believing in Something

Colin Kaepernick, former N.F.L. quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers, took a stand about racial injustice. This Table Talk provides a discussion guide about the Nike ad
A survey showed that in U.S. families, boys are paid twice as much allowance as girls for doing weekly chores. Have a discussion with your youth about the "gender allowance gap" and their thoughts about chores and allowance in your home.

**Tools and Strategies**

**Kids, Allowance and Gender**

A survey showed that in U.S. families, boys are paid twice as much allowance as girls for doing weekly chores. Have a discussion with your youth about the "gender allowance gap" and their thoughts about chores and allowance in your home.
Have a family discussion about the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, what it means to be 'American' and the consequences when DACA is eliminated.

**What is DACA and Who Are the DREAMers?**

Have a family discussion about the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, what it means to be 'American' and the consequences when DACA is eliminated.

**Family Separations and Detentions at the Border**

There have been horrific stories of children being ripped from their parents at the border. Discuss with your youth what they have heard, how they feel about the situation, what it means to seek asylum and how they can help.
We are seeing more and more news and social media stories about people experiencing bias as they go about their daily lives. Here are some tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about incidents of everyday bias.

**What is Everyday Bias?**

We are seeing more and more news and social media stories about people experiencing bias as they go about their daily lives. Here are some tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about incidents of everyday bias.

**Scientist Drawings and Gender Stereotypes**
Research studies, past and present, revealed that most children's scientist drawings depict men. Use this discussion guide to talk with youth about the "Draw-a-Scientist" tests and what they reveal about gender stereotypes.

Since August 2017, about 655,000 Rohingya people have fled into neighboring Bangladesh to escape violent and deadly persecution in Myanmar. Here are some tips and strategies to help guide a discussion with youth about the Rohingya refugee crisis.

**The Rohingya Crisis**

Since August 2017, about 655,000 Rohingya people have fled into neighboring Bangladesh to escape violent and deadly persecution in Myanmar. Here are some tips and strategies to help guide a discussion with youth about the Rohingya refugee crisis.
Use this discussion guide to have a parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about President Trump's ban on foreign nationals into the U.S.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

What is the 'Muslim Ban'?

Use this discussion guide to have a parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about President Trump's ban on foreign nationals into the U.S.

What is Net Neutrality?

On December 14, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to dismantle net neutrality regulations that were passed in 2015. Discuss with youth what net neutrality means and how this veto will impact people's ability to express their thoughts and ideas online.
Tools and Strategies

Why We Need Diverse Books

Talk with youth about literature, diversity and what other aspects of their life or forms of media lack diversity.

Sexual Harassment in the News

In October 2017, Harvey Weinstein, a powerful producer in the movie industry for decades, was accused of sexual harassment by more than thirty women. Use these tips...
and strategies to discuss with youth their thoughts, experiences and how they can support others.

Here are some tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about the lessons of Charlottesville, racism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy, the alt right and the First Amendment.
Caridad García

MORE THAN 150 YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, THERE IS A NEW DRIVE TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS. DISCUSS WITH YOUTH WHY THEY THINK THIS ISSUE IS CONTROVERSIAL AND WHY MONUMENTS HOLD SO MUCH POWER AND MEANING.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

More than 150 years after the Civil War, there is a new drive to remove Confederate monuments. Discuss with youth why they think this issue is controversial and why monuments hold so much power and meaning.

WHAT BULLYING IS AND IS NOT

Use this parent and family roundtable discussion guide to talk with youth about bullying/cyberbullying and how to be an ally.
"We Think Black Men are Bigger than White Men (Even When they're Not)," a perception revealed in a study by APA. Talk with youth about stereotypes and how misperceptions of others impact our interactions.

**Race, Perception and Implicit Bias**

"We Think Black Men are Bigger than White Men (Even When they're Not)," a perception revealed in a study by APA. Talk with youth about stereotypes and how misperceptions of others impact our interactions.
We see symbols every day in all aspects of our lives. Lately, a proliferation of hate symbols is increasing concern. Use this discussion guide to engage youth in conversations about swastikas and other hate symbols.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

What is Fake News?

Here are some tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about "fake news," what it means and how to identify it.
Nice, France and Our Response to Terrorist Attacks

Have a parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about the 2016 attacks in Nice, France and understanding the complexities around incidents of terrorism.

Responding to Cyberhate

Online hate speech, or "cyberhate," is often in the news. Use these tips and strategies to discuss with youth two different responses to cyberhate highlighted in the news and ways they can respond.
Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about bias and bullying in the presidential election.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Bias in the Presidential Election
Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about bias and bullying in the presidential election.

PROPAGANDA, EXTREMISM AND ONLINE RECRUITMENT TACTICS
Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about propaganda, extremism and recruitment tactics of terrorist groups.
TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

**Movies and the Diversity Gap**

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about implicit bias and the role it plays in the movie industry, and award platforms.

Cliff/Licensed under CC BY 2.0

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

**Dolls and Diversity**

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about dolls and diversity.
In the wake of terrorist attacks and ISIS, here are tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about Muslims, islamophobia and being an ally.

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Islamophobia and Being an Ally**

In the wake of terrorist attacks and ISIS, here are tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about Muslims, islamophobia and being an ally.
School Discipline and the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Behavior that once led to a trip to the principal's office and a detention, now often leads to suspension, expulsion and/or arrest. Use these tips for parent/family roundtable discussion with youth about incidents of harsh school discipline.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Refugees, Reactions and World Response

Refugees from Syria have been leaving their homes in search of safety and assistance. Use these tips and strategies to have family conversations with youth about the refugee crisis.

Bigstock
Two fourth grade students expressed their opinion's about their school's lunch policy that required boys and girls to sit at separate tables. Have family conversations with youth about school policies and making a difference.

**Kids Can Make a Difference**

Two fourth grade students expressed their opinion's about their school's lunch policy that required boys and girls to sit at separate tables. Have family conversations with youth about school policies and making a difference.

**Sports, Mascots and Bias**
The Washington D.C's football team's name continues to spark controversy. Here are tips and strategies for family conversations with youth about mascots, slurs, names and epithets.

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Teenagers and Technology**

Teenagers are online constantly. Use these conversation tips to help guide family conversations with youth about their technology use and habits.
Caitlyn Jenner and Being Transgender

Caitlyn Jenner has been in the news recently because she recently came out as transgender.

What’s Fair and Unfair About Student Dress Codes?

Over the years, schools have implemented student dress codes to address a wide range of issues, some of which have been quite controversial.