**Best Conversation Practices based on Braver Angels Principles**

**Core Principles**

1. Respect, curiosity, and openness
2. It’s best to assume good intentions unless proven otherwise
3. Most people have some common values and concerns
4. Speaking from the heart
5. Everyone needs to save face

**Expectations to Abandon**

1. That you will be so persuasive that someone who disagrees with you will respond with some version of, “What was I thinking?”
2. That facts about guns in America will be agreed on.
3. That the other person will use the skills taught in Braver Angels workshops.
4. That the other person will use your preferred language and terms.

**“Bring our best selves to the conversation”**

1. We’re here to understand others and to explain our views for the purpose of learning more about other perspectives and find common ground.
2. Let’s each speak for ourselves and not try to speak for or represent any outside group.
   1. Let’s stick to the spirit of the activities designed for each stage of the meeting. Example: Stick with the question being asked.
3. Otherwise, it’s standard stuff we all know- taking turns, not interrupting others, listening to everyone, and opening up space for quieter group members, being respectful (as in, no eye rolling or loud sighs when someone is speaking), etc. In other words, bringing our best selves to a difficult conversation.

Learn more:

<https://braverangels.org/our-mission/>

Treasure Valley Alliance, Mike Tilrico (Red), mtilrico@braverangels.org

Idaho State Alliance, Damien Preinitz (Red), dpreinitz@braverangels.org

Idaho State Alliance, Rob Hanson (Blue), rhanson@braverangels.org