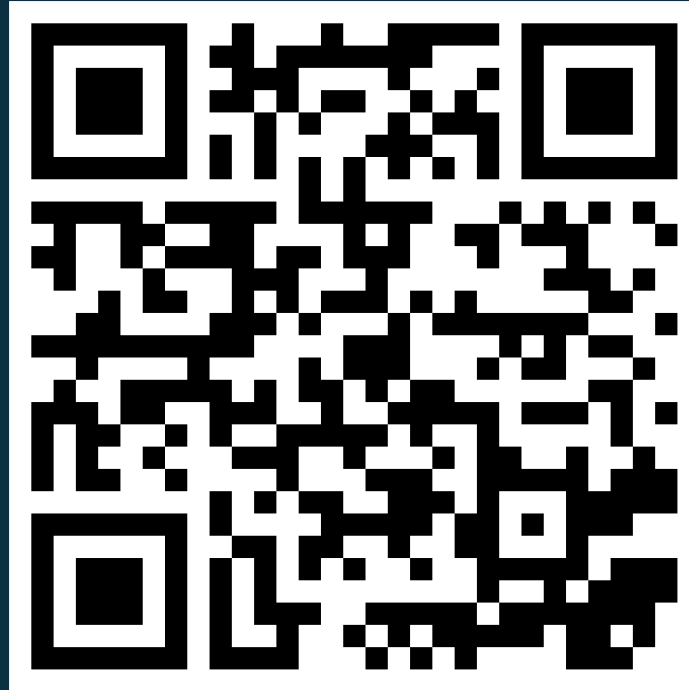


REASONATE

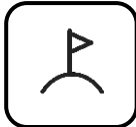








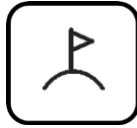








<https://productivedialogue.org/reasonate/>

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REASONATE

- A **collaborative** approach to productive dialogue.
- **Identifies, develops, and structures the application** of key dialogue skills.
- **Eliminates the mental fatigue** of needing to keep track of the issues in our heads.
- **Reduces negative emotions** by focusing our attention on the reasoning rather than the people advancing it.

I) PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE		II) DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE		III) MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE		IV) REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE	
	1. Agree upon a GOAL .		1. STARTING the dialogue.		1. ASSERT a claim.		1. REFOCUS on the claims.
	2. Choose a QUESTION and POSITION .		2. CONTINUING the dialogue.		2. SUPPORT a claim.		2. BREAK DOWN statements.
	3. Assign ROLES		3. ENDING the dialogue.		3. OBJECT to a claim.		3. BRIDGE the gap.
					4. BRIDGE the gap.		4. REFINE claims.
					5. REVISE a claim.		5. FACT CHECK claims.

I) PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE

PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. Agree upon a **GOAL**.

- Because **this goal belongs to all parties**, it must be possible for all parties to acknowledge when it's been achieved.
- If the topic of the dialogue doesn't matter, **the goal might be topic-independent**.
- If the dialogue is held to address a particular topic, **the goal might be related to the topic**.
- The goal can **evolve** as the dialogue progresses.

PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. Agree upon a **GOAL**.



2. Choose a **QUESTION**
and **POSITION**.

- The **question** can be a pressing issue about which participants have strong, competing views, but it need not be.
- Although it may be true that people can believe whatever they want about the position, for this activity, you'll be **exploring the reasons to accept or reject the position**.

PREPARING FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. Agree upon a **GOAL**.



2. Choose a **QUESTION**
and **POSITION**.



3. Assign **ROLES**.

- One participant or team (“PRO”) agrees to **support** the position, and another participant or team (“CON”) agrees to **oppose** the position.
- PRO and CON receive sticky notes of **different colors**.
- Although you may be able to see both sides of an issue, for this activity, you’ll need to **assume a stance and defend it**.

II) DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE

DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. **STARTING** the dialogue.

- The first turn belongs to Pro, and will involve Pro writing the position under discussion on a sticky note and providing support for that position by making one or more Moves to Advance the Dialogue.
- Turns alternate between Pro and Con.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. **STARTING** the dialogue.



2. **CONTINUING** the dialogue.

- During a turn, a participant
 - Must respond to any Request to Improve the Dialogue.
 - Must make one or more Moves to Advance the Dialogue.
 - May make one or more Requests to Improve the Dialogue.
- Participants may collaborate during a turn (e.g., Pro and Con might work together to bridge a gap or refine a claim).
- Participants may remove a line of reasoning from the board if that line of reasoning has been resolved (perhaps because it has “bottomed out” in basic agreements or disagreements).

DIRECTIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE



1. **STARTING** the dialogue.



2. **CONTINUING** the dialogue.



3. **ENDING** the dialogue.

- The dialogue ends when participants agree that the original or amended goal of the dialogue has been achieved or pursued as far as possible.
- “Bonus points” for being able to articulate how the goal has been achieved.

III) MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.

Your claim here.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats because
they're more
affectionate.



Each note
should contain
only one claim.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

People should have
children, not pets.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.



If we accept this claim, would
that give us to reason to think that
the claim above it is *true*?

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

Cats are very
affectionate.



If we accept this claim, would
that give us to reason to think that
the claim above it is false?

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

Cats are very
affectionate.

Cats often sit next to
people.



MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

Cats are very
affectionate.

Cats often sit next to
people.

If an animal often sits
next to people, then it's
very affectionate.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Cats are more
independent than dogs.



MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Direct Denial

Cats are more
independent than dogs.



MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Direct Denial

Cats are more
independent than dogs.

Independent animals
make better pets.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Cats are more
independent than dogs.

Independent animals
make better pets.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.



5. **REVISE** a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

Cats are very
affectionate.

Cats often sit next to
people.

If an animal often sits
next to people, then it's
very affectionate.

MOVES TO ADVANCE THE DIALOGUE



1. **ASSERT** a claim.



2. **SUPPORT** a claim.



3. **OBJECT** to a claim.



4. **BRIDGE** the gap.



5. **REVISE** a claim.

Dogs are better pets
than cats.

Dogs are more
affectionate than cats.

Cats are very
affectionate.

Cats often sit next to
people.

Sitting next to people is
usually a good sign of
affection.

IV) REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.

Let's focus on
claims, not
people.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats use litter boxes, so
they don't need to go on
walks.

You are so lazy.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.

Let's divide this
sentence into its
component claims.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats use litter boxes, so
they don't need to go on
walks.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Ah! But “walks are good exercise”
isn’t reason to think that “cats use
litter boxes” is false.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats don’t need
to go on walks.

Cats use litter boxes.

Walks are good exercise.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats don't need
to go on walks.

Cats use litter boxes.

Walks are good exercise.

Nope! "Walks are good exercise"
isn't reason to think that "cats don't
go on walks" is false.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.

I can't see where my objection goes.
Let's bridge the gap.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats don't need
to go on walks.

Cats use litter boxes.

Walks are good exercise.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cats don't need
to go on walks.

Animals that don't need
to go on walks are better
pets than dogs.

Cats use litter boxes.

Walks are good exercise.

Bingo! "Walks are good exercise" is
reason to think it's false that
"Animals that don't need to go on
walks are better pets than dogs."

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.



4. **REFINE** claims.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cat owners are smarter
than dog owners.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.



4. **REFINE** claims.

What does
“smarter” mean?
Smarter how,
exactly?

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cat owners are smarter
than dog owners.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.



4. **REFINE** claims.



5. **FACT CHECK** claims.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cat owners are more
educated than dog
owners.

REQUESTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE



1. **REFOCUS** on the claims.



2. **BREAK DOWN** statements.



3. **BRIDGE** the gap.



4. **REFINE** claims.



5. **FACT CHECK** claims.

Cats are better pets
than dogs.

Cat owners are more
educated than dog
owners.

Is that true? Let's
find out.

Make Productive Dialogue Your New Love Language



Learn how to have clearer conversations
for deeper understanding
In all sorts of relationships. (It's fun.)

Monday, February 2, 2026
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Portage County Library, Pinery Room

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