National Issues Forum – Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome? What Should We Do?

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A different model of public conversation: National Issues Forum on Immigration

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Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy (ICDD)

www.k-state.edu/icdd

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
What is a “National Issues Forum”? 

[Image: NATIONAL ISSUES FORUMS]

[www.nifi.org](http://www.nifi.org) publishes issue guides designed to compare 3-4 Approaches (Options) to an issue.

Forums take participants through each Approach, considering their values, possible Actions, and potential Drawbacks.
FACILITATORS & PARTICIPANTS

JACOB, ROBERTA, BILL, CAROL, SCOTT, KAYLA, LINDA, GREG

Process leaders, not subject experts lead this conversation

TABLE PARTICIPANTS – YOU, THE PEOPLE

Create the conversation, examining different perspectives, action options, and drawbacks
ICDD Principles of Civic Discourse
e.g. groundrules

1. SEEK understanding and common ground.
2. EXPECT and EXPLORE conflicting viewpoints.
3. GIVE everyone an opportunity to speak.
4. LISTEN respectfully and thoughtfully.
5. OFFER and EXAMINE support for claims.
6. APPRECIATE communication differences.
7. STAY focused on the issues.
8. RESPECT time limits.
**TABLE INTRODUCTIONS (issue relevance)**

- Table facilitator begins round-robin introductions (15 min.)

**INTERACTION (issue response)**

- Approach 1 (20 min.)
- Approach 2 (20 min.)
- Approach 3 (20 min.)
- Table facilitator solicits summary take-aways ideas (10 min.)

**CLOSING (summarization)**

- Lead moderator solicits key take-aways from tables (20 min.)
Link to start-up video and NIF Issue Guides:

https://vimeo.com/ondemand/comingtoamerica