



Better Conversations

OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

Back to
SCHOOL
EDITION

Several colorful paper clips (blue, green, yellow, red) are scattered around the text, some overlapping the letters.

GROUNDING VIRTUES

— WHAT WE PRACTICE, WE BECOME —

WORDS THAT MATTER

The words we use shape how we understand ourselves, how we interpret the world, how we treat others.

HUMILITY

Humility is a companion to curiosity, surprise, and delight. Spiritual humility is not about getting small. It is about encouraging others to be big.

GENEROUS LISTENING

Listening is more than being quiet while others have their say. It is about presence as much as receiving; it is about connection more than observing.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is a bridge to all the great virtues, but it is immediately accessible. You don't have to love or forgive or feel compassion to extend hospitality.

PATIENCE

Human transformation takes time — longer than we want it to — but it is what is necessary for social transformation. A long, patient view of time will replenish our sense of our capacities and our hope for the world.

ADVENTUROUS CIVILITY

Civility, in our world of change, is about creating new possibilities for living forward while being different and even continuing to hold profound disagreement.



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BEING | CIVIL CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

What is the
best decision
you have ever
made?

Why?

What is the
one thing you
would like
to learn
this year?

If you could
teach one
thing to the
generation
before/after
you, what
would it be?

Define what
a successful
school year
would look
like to you.

YOU are an
influencer.

What do
you hope to
achieve?

What is the
best advice
you have ever
received?

Did you
follow it?

Discuss the importance of being a good citizen and contributing to society.

In the age of
cancel-culture,
how do we find
constructive
ways to hold
someone
accountable
and move
forward?

How do we
take pride in
our state's
history, but also
recognize the
complexities
of its founding?

If you could
make one rule
that everyone
had to follow,
what would
it be?

Why?

If you had a
superpower,
what would
it be?

Why?

How do we
create an
environment
that fosters
belonging and
the courage to
speak up?

Name one
thing that
makes you
nervous about
the new
school year?