

PERSONAL ACTIVITY: PART 2

INTERRACIAL DYAD

The purpose of the preceding dialogue was to listen, build trust, and believe the stories that another person shared, even if that person's experience was different from one's own. This conversation stands as an example of what typically happens in interracial dialogue around race. It was hard for the White woman to stick to the rules of the conversation and not interrupt; the protocol reinforces the necessity of having strong guidance during the dialogue. This is why there is such a need for the established time allotments, designations for speaking and listening, and closely monitored prompts. Without these, the conversation typically becomes imbalanced.

Nevertheless, notice how powerful the structure became in this conversation. Despite the interjections and the rule breaking, the structure was strong enough to allow both the Black man and the White woman to speak honestly about their respective feelings, experiences, and insights. Effective dialogue took place, and each educator gained a heightened understanding of the other's experiences.

To reflect on this conversation, answer the following questions:

Parameters

- What does the moderator do to ensure effective dialogue?
- What parameters exist to guarantee equity in the conversation?
- In what ways could this conversation be better managed and run?

White Talk Versus Color Commentary

- Give examples of White Talk and Color Commentary that occur in this dialogue.
- Where was the power in the conversation?
- What could be done to create a better balance between the White Talk and the Color Commentary?
- What did you learn about your own communication style as a result of this dialogue?