



Freedom Reason Tolerance


Reflecting Our NAUA Values
in Our Communications





Objectives

- Identify how the three values embraced by NAUA (Freedom, Reason, Tolerance) help define who we are as an organization
- Determine how these values might serve as a useful guide to how we interact within our communities, including the NAUA community
- Maintain focus on communication strategies, rather than debate political or societal issues



“Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.”

~Rollo May

“Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill.”

~ Buddha



Freedom: Every person must be free to think and speak for themselves and to choose their own purposes and meaning in life.



Reason: Every person has the capacity to reason and consider the empirical evidence before them in their pursuit of truth and understanding. Ideological dictums and religious dogmas should not be imposed upon them.



Tolerance: Every person, regardless of their specific ideologies and identities, should have equal standing and equal access to the benefits and protections of society.

Our Values

NAUA summarizes these values, which emerged during the Renaissance and flourished during the Enlightenment, as Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance, and considers them fundamental for any society to demonstrate respect for the worth and dignity of every person.

Participant Introductions



NAME



CITY, STATE



WHERE YOU'D MOVE IF
DEPORTED FROM YOUR HOME
COUNTRY



Freedom: Every person must be free to think and speak for themselves and to choose their own purposes and meaning in life.

Focus on Freedom

Types of Freedom

POLITICAL FREEDOM:

- Free Speech
- Voting Rights
- Freedom to Assemble

PERSONAL FREEDOM:

- Thoughts & Beliefs
- Lifestyle & Career
- Where to Live & Travel

PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL FREEDOM:

- Personal Safety
- Personal Privacy
- Protection from Discrimination

SOCIAL FREEDOM:

- Choice of Companions
- Choice of Partner
- Freedom to Marry or Have Children (or Not)

ECONOMIC FREEDOM:

- Choice of Occupation & Employer
- Right to Organize or Start a Business
- Property Ownership

DIGITAL FREEDOM:

- Access to Information
- Data Privacy & Security

LEGAL FREEDOM:

- Fair & Speedy Trial
- No Cruel or Unusual Punishment

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:

- Choice of Faith & Faith Practices
- No Religious Persecution

Discussion Guidelines

Allow one another the FREEDOM to participate – or not – in discussions by keeping own contributions short and focused (2 minutes or less)

Promote an atmosphere of TOLERANCE for multiple points of view and be REASONABLE in how we state our opinions

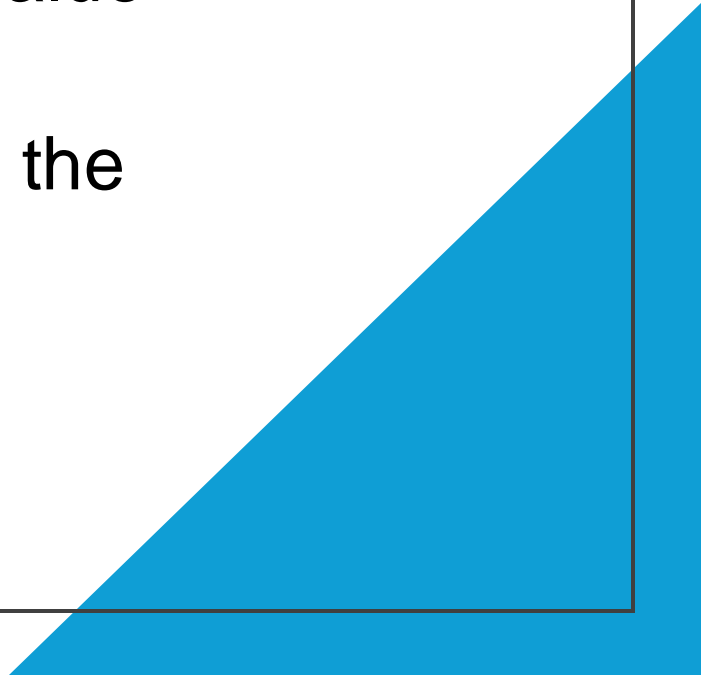
Building community involves compromise and negotiation, not pushing for 100% agreement

Allow for the possibility the other person could be right and demonstrate respect for their views

The goal is to build good will and cooperation while exploring NAUA values more deeply

Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways we can promote the value of freedom within the world?
2. When might our own freedom interfere with the freedom of others?





Focus on
Reason

Reason

- One of the three Enlightenment Principles on which our liberal faith is founded is the idea of “Reason.”
- According to NAUA: Every person has the capacity to reason and consider the empirical evidence before them in their pursuit of truth and understanding. Ideological dictums and religious dogmas should not be imposed upon them.



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- How do we use this principle best in our interactions with each other?
 - Perhaps we first need to understand what this concept means in relationship to communication.



Definitions

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, “Reason,” when used as a noun is “the ability of a healthy mind to think and make judgments, especially based on practical facts.”

When used in the terms of the Enlightenment and following Rationalist Philosophers, reason and intellectual thought are the real sources of all knowledge.



Reason in Interactions

Another way of looking at the idea of “Reason” for interacting with each other is the idea of the concept of acting in a reasonable way.

This concept, taken from the legal industry, means that **a person should “act or do something in a way that is rational, fair, and sensible”**

Personally, I like this interpretation of how we should use the concept of “Reason” as a basis for interacting with each other.



When we engage in conversation, particularly on something that might be controversial or cause emotional upset, it is best to try to act in a fair and rational way. Look at the idea from different points of view before commenting. **Try to consider the other person's position and emotions before responding.**



Try to base our arguments on fact, preferably from a neutral source. **Being able to support your point of view with rationally based facts from unbiased locations is a helpful way** to reduce the emotional temperature of a contentious conversation.



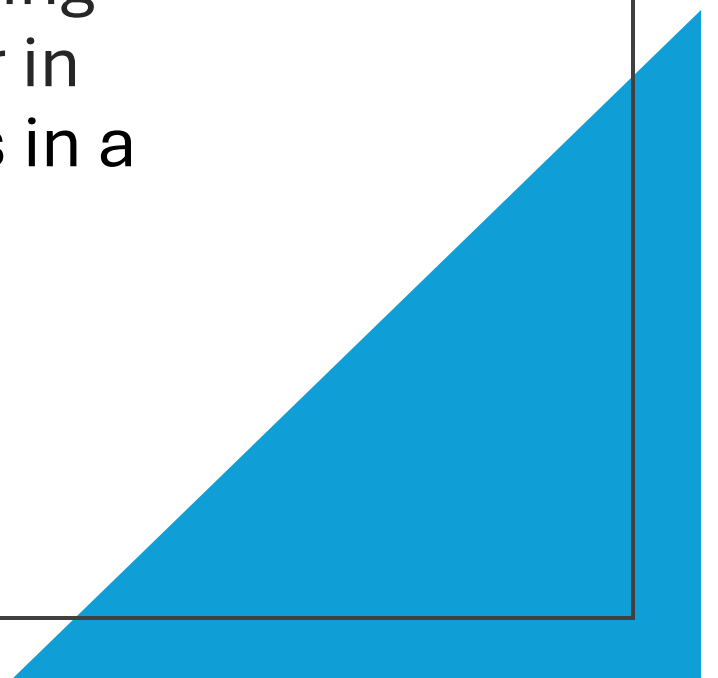
Spend just a few seconds trying to think about a topic from the other person's point of view—does the person have a rational background to the comment? **Give the other person the benefit of the doubt.**




Before we break into small groups, please think about how you see the concept of reason influencing how we treat each other in communications.

Discussion Question

How do you see the concept of reason influencing how we treat each other in communications, or in other words, how do you approach discussions in a “reasonable” way?





Focus on
Tolerance

Tolerance

In pharmacy – how much of a drug an organism can effectively use

In engineering – the allowable amount of variation or error that part must meet so as not to impair the operations of a machine

In degree of opposition or resistance – e.g., “zero-tolerance policy”

Length of time or stress that an organism can function under, e.g., learn to “tolerate” the extreme cold

Religious sense – “recognition of the right of private judgment in matters of faith and worship” *Act of Toleration* (1689)



Tolerance is understood as allowing or accepting the actions, ideas of the people that we disagree with.



Tolerance doesn't mean agreeing with others; it's essential for coexistence, cooperation and sustaining diverse relationships and societies.



Tolerance enables individuals to collaborate effectively – essential in our interconnected world.



The word originates from a Latin term implying endurance, suffering, and forbearance.



From the
NAUA
website

- **Tolerance:** Every person, regardless of their specific ideologies and identities, should have equal standing and equal access to the benefits and protections of society.

If I am tolerated, does it mean:

- I am not 'accepted'?
- I am not 'affirmed'?



The Tolerance Trap

HOW GOD, GENES, &
GOOD INTENTIONS ARE
SABOTAGING GAY EQUALITY



WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION

Suzanna Danuta Walters

- Tolerance... is inevitably fixated on a (distancing) acceptance of the (intruding) other. P. 10

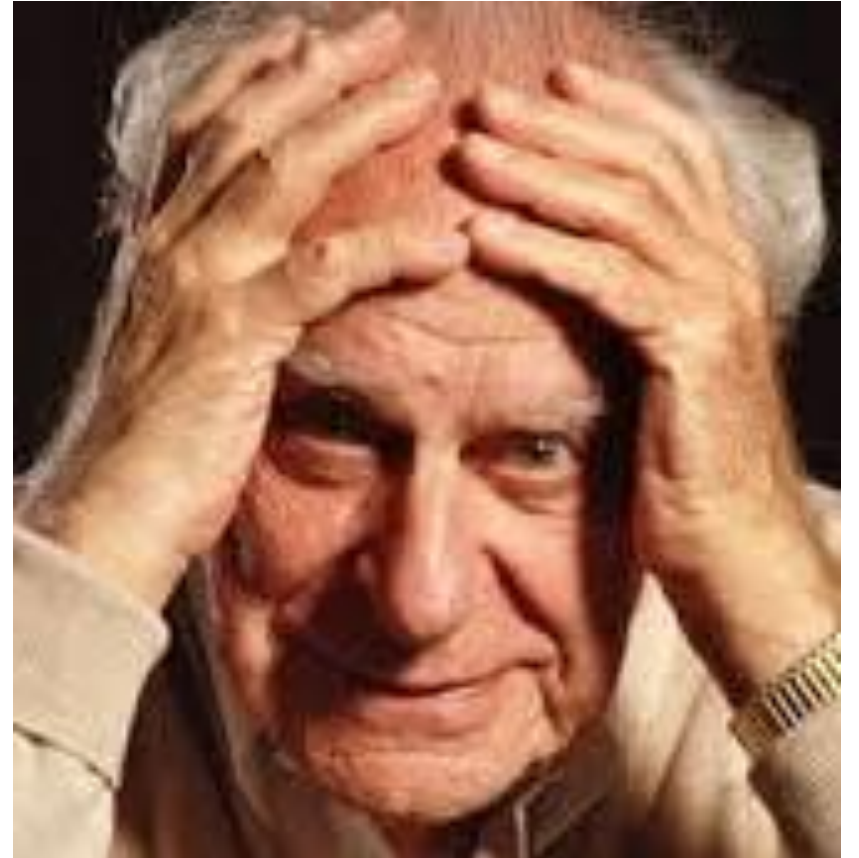
Karl Popper

”Paradox of Intolerance”

“In order to maintain a tolerant society, the society must be intolerant of intolerance.”

Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them.

[Karl Popper, "The Open Society and Its Enemies," 1962]





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- “Viewpoint diversity can’t defeat anti-viewpoint diversity, not in the long run. The tolerance it espouses has allowed intolerance to prosper.
 - Once the ideologues reach critical mass, which may be but 10 percent to 15 percent of the group, a slow but steady process of subversion will begin.”

Discussion Questions

1. Does practicing tolerance help or hinder you in talking to those with different views on political or other issues?
2. How do you build community with people who have different views on moral issues?

