

Bridge the Divide — Event Kit (10–50 people)

****Purpose:**** Host a respectful, structured conversation that interrupts HPI patterns.

****We condemn all political violence and humanize everyone involved.****

- Duration: 75–90 minutes
- Room: Circle or cabaret seating; visible ground rules poster
- Materials: Name tags, timer, pens, pledge QR, feedback form
- Accessibility: Mics if needed; large-print handouts; content warnings for sensitive topics

1. ****Welcome & Why (5 min)****

- “We’re here to practice curiosity over contempt and reject violence without exception.”

2. ****Ground Rules (5 min)****

- No interruptions; steel-man opponents; facts > dunking; no dehumanization.

3. ****Icebreakers (10 min)****

- ***Pairs*:** “Share a time someone changed your mind (big or small).”

4. ****Story Exchange (20 min)****

- Groups of 4–6. Prompt: “Tell a value that guides your politics. Where did it come from?”

5. ****Common Ground Mapping (15 min)****

- Sticky notes: ***We agree on...***; ***We disagree but understand...***

6. ****HPI Spotting (10 min)****

- Facilitator mini-lesson: HPI cycle in simple terms; show 2 anonymized examples; discuss alternatives.

7. ****Unity Pledge + Braver Angels (10 min)****

- Live QR sign-up; optional pairing opt-in; schedule next step.

8. ****Commitment Rounds (10 min)****

- Each person states one measurable action (e.g., “Invite a neighbor across the aisle for coffee.”)

9. ****Feedback & Close (5 min)****

- Paper or QR form; announce follow-up email with resources.

- “Assume good intent. Correct firmly, kindly. We de-escalate, not score points.”

- “If harmful language appears, pause, reframe, and return to shared norms.”

- “No whataboutism during violence condemnations. We condemn it—full stop.”

- Count attendees, Unity Pledge signers, Braver Angels opt-ins, and ****# of cross-partisan conversations**** scheduled.

- Feedback form fields: safety (1–5), empathy gained (1–5), action intent (1–5), open comment.

- Subject: ***Thanks for Bridging the Divide — What’s Next***

- Body: “Reply ‘PAIR’ to be matched with a Braver Angels conversation or workshop. Your one action this month: _____.”

- “Two hands reaching across a small gap with neutral blues/greens that signal calm and hope.”