



Discussion Outline

It's time to talk. In a world with unlimited access to endless ideas, we need to sit down and think about what we're reading and what we can do about it. We hope this discussion guide gives you the tools to do just that. As a MomU discussion leader, you provide a place for moms to evaluate the ideas and events of our day. It is always best to open and close your discussions in prayer, asking God to guide your discussion. Read the article or watch the video together, then pick a couple of questions from each section below to guide the different phases of your discussion.

Our guide provides open ended questions to promote deeper discussion on the topics you are considering. Make sure everyone in your group feels comfortable sharing and the discussion is not dominated by one person – even the leader! Encourage each member to think for themselves, give honest feedback, and speak with respect, especially when there are opposing viewpoints in the group. No member of the group is expected to know everything and have all the “right answers.” Your discussion will be most productive if you model this for your group and instead focus on sharpening each other’s understanding and challenging yourself to find ways to put what you’re learning into action. Above all, to focus on baby steps!

Observation [Phase One]

Take note of the perspective and paradigm of the author

- What do you know about the author’s background, personal history, or values?
- What people or events are described in the material?
- Is there an indication of where the author draws his ideas of right and wrong?
- How does the article define the problem and what is the author’s solution?
- Do you detect a bias in the article toward a particular point of view? How did the author tip his hand?
- What ideas or principles does the author want you to take away from the article?

Evaluation [Phase Two]

Analyze ideas and principles by a standard

- What are some things that you use to evaluate information you read? Which apply to this article?

Suggested standards to consider:

- ✓ Scripture (For example, What specific verses speak to the subject the author discusses?)
- ✓ Do the scriptures you see align or contrast with the author's point of view?)
- ✓ Constitution (Does the author's solution fit within the purposes of government stated in the preamble to the Constitution?)
- ✓ The LIFT Principles (Does this support Limited Government, Individual Liberty, Free Enterprise, Traditional Values, from Patriot Academy)
- How does this article align with the standard you've chosen?
- What facts or statistics support or challenge the assumptions of the author?
- What sources do you trust to gain a greater understanding of this issue?

Implication [Phase Three]

Discuss long-term effects of ideas and actions

- List three positive and three negative outcomes of the proposed solutions.
- Have you seen a similar situation or argument in history? What was the result?
- Is there a moral component to this issue or policy that causes you concern?
- What direct implications does this idea have for yourself and your family?
- How have you seen policy decisions based on this mindset impact yourself or a family member?
- What values are sacrificed in order to promote the principles of the article?
- Think about a policy change related to this topic. What positive benefits came about and what were the unintended negative consequences? In the end, was the change positive or negative overall?

Action [Phase Four]

Develop a plan to confront pertinent issues

- How can I pray for this issue?
- To whom do I need to communicate what I've learned?

Recommended people to start with:

- ✓ Elected officials
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Neighbors
- ✓ Family Members
- Which of my elected officials seem to be aligned with a mindset that I can support? Which ones are aligned against the policies I support?
- What volunteer opportunities may allow me to put these principles into action?
- Where can I learn more about the principles I am not as familiar with?

Make sure to close your discussion in prayer and ask for God's grace to make a difference in the areas you've discussed.