common ground
for Action

What is Common Ground for Action (CGA)? A simple but sophisticated platform for deliberative forums online.

CGA allows small groups to learn more about an issue, examine different actions to take, weigh trade-offs, and find common ground, with beautiful visuals that let participants actually see their conversation evolve in real time. Check it out at: https://www.nifi.org/en/common-ground-action.

Why hold CGA forums? A visual, engaging way to allow citizens to have meaningful, productive online conversations about controversial issues.

We all know how tough it can be for people to have useful, civil conversations about controversial issues—especially online. CGA provides a structured way for citizens to have these conversations, to more deeply explore their own judgment on an issue, and to better understand the judgment of others with different views. CGA also provides a wealth of easy-to-analyze information about participants and their views and attitudes toward an issue far different from and deeper than what you get from surveys or even focus groups.

How do CGA forums work? CGA forums are two-hour, facilitated, deep, small-group deliberations.

In these small-group deliberations, participants learn more about the issue, share why they care about it, then examine three approaches to dealing with the issue, including the trade-offs of each approach. At the end, participants reflect upon any common ground they have identified and see the difference their talking together has made.

Technical mumbo jumbo? None.

There is no software to download; CGA runs in any browser. CGA's interface is designed to be intuitive enough to allow participants of all ages and levels of tech-savviness to participate with ease.

How can I set one of these up? Get in touch!

We can quickly show practitioners, researchers, and faculty how to facilitate their own forums, or we can connect you with a network of trained moderators to facilitate a forum for your group. We can also make results data from the forums available to you so you can use the data in whatever way works best. CGA is free for you and participants to use. Just email cga@nifi.org, and we'll get you set up.

Kettering Foundation

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUMS