



**LOOKING BACK:**

# Find Common Ground

Use this form to look at a conversation where you either did or did not find common ground.

Briefly describe the conversation you experienced.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What common denominators did you find between you and your conversation partner?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Please note any words that you or your conversation partner said that created unity or division during the conversation.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Did you do anything to avoid common dividers?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Is there anything you should do differently to be more effective at finding common ground?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....





**LOOKING AT:**

# Find Common Ground (2 of 2)



**WITH A PARTNER**

Use this form to explore Finding Common Ground and to try out the ICARE model. Simply use the questions to identify what common ground you hold with your conversation partner.

**Interests:** What are your interests or passions (books, food, restaurants, music, sports teams, travel, and so on)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Convictions:** What are your important intellectual, political, artistic, social action, or religious beliefs?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Activities:** What do you enjoy doing (cooking, running, singing, writing, volunteering, working, mentoring, and so on)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Roles:** What roles do you have or have you held (teacher, administrator, parent, committee member, scout leader, coach, choir director)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Experiences:** What are some important experiences you have had (schools or universities; people known; locations visited, lived in, or hope to be visited)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



**LOOKING AHEAD:**

# Find Common Ground



Who is someone with whom you want to find common ground?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Are you judging this person in any way that might make it difficult to find common ground?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What are some possible areas where common ground might exist or topics to avoid? Consider the acronym, ICARE.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- I** *Interests such as books, food, music, sports teams, local restaurants...*
- C** *Convictions such as intellectual, political, religious....*
- A** *Activities such as cooking, running, singing, writing...*
- R** *Roles such as teachers, administrator, parent, committee member, scout leader, choir director....*
- E** *Experiences such as schools or universities attended, people known, locations visited or hoped to be visited...*

What questions can you ask to find common ground?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....