

**Thank you for joining us.
The workshop will begin shortly.**

Introduction to Deliberative Framing

**November 6, 2025
2:00 EDT**

Welcome

Introduction to Deliberative Framing

November 6, 2025

2:00 EDT



Talk. Decide. Act.

Fall 2025 Workshop Series

TALK

Introduction to
Moderating for
Deliberation



Oct. 9, 2025
2:00 PM ET

DECIDE

Introduction to
Deliberative
Framing



Nov. 6, 2025
2:00 PM ET

ACT

Introduction to
Deliberative Talk-
to-Action Initiatives



Dec. 4, 2025
2:00 PM ET

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www.nifi.org/workshops

Today's agenda

- **Defining** deliberative framing
- **Practices** to develop frameworks that support deliberative discussions
- **Resources** to support your work
- **Learning from each other:** questions, insights, challenges

The National Issues Forums Institute

A **nonpartisan nonprofit** that equips, empowers, and mobilizes people to use **deliberation** to take action for the public good.



Equip



Empower



Mobilize

What Are National Issues Forums?

- Convened by a **national network** of individuals and organizations
- Using **deliberative practices** that promote nonpartisan, multi-perspective discussions
- On **issues** of national scope that impact communities across the country



Deliberation: What is it? Why do it?

Democracy is strengthened when individuals, institutions, and governments find ways to talk and work with each other.

Deliberative discussions of issues that impact our lives make a profound contribution to our capacity to do just that.

PUBLIC DELIBERATION

- Brings the public together to work through and take ownership of a problem.
- Encourages participants to talk through rather than just about an issue.
- Asks citizens to work through tensions, weigh tradeoffs, and make choices.
- Helps community members identify areas of common ground for taking action.
- Views citizens as actors rather than passive recipients of democracy.

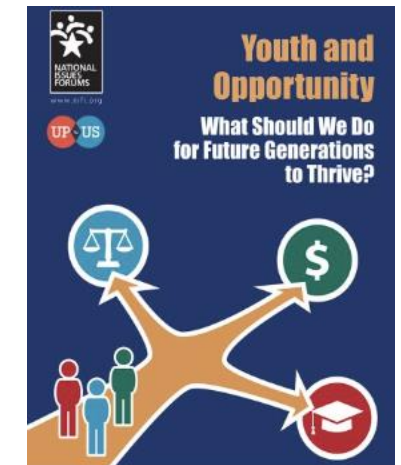
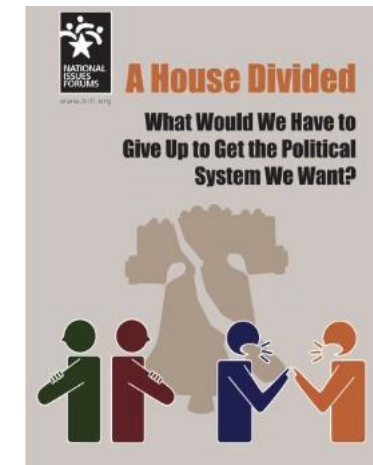
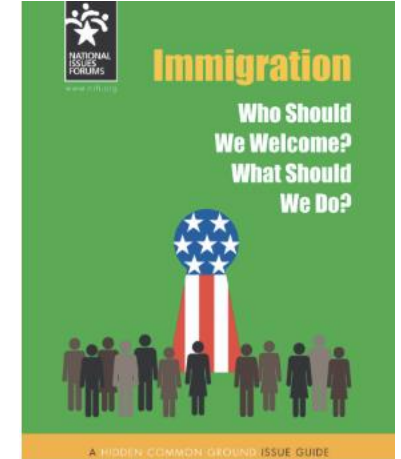
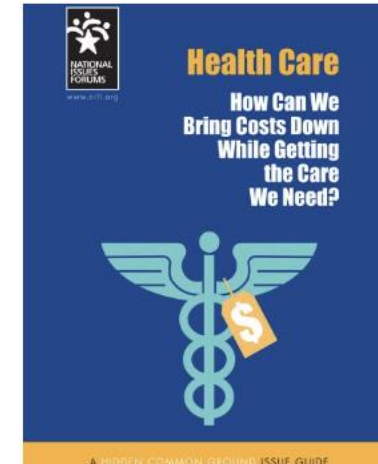
Framing public issues

- Deliberative issue framing is rooted in the belief that democracy depends on making choices together about how to deal with public problems.
- Framing an issue for public deliberation requires us to examine the problem from many angles. It encourages us to be curious about—and even compassionate toward—ideas that differ from our own, so that we can discover ways to move forward to improve lives.



Deliberative frameworks . . .

- **support** productive, comprehensive ways of talking together.
- **broaden** understanding of an issue and its effects.
- **examine** a range of ways to address the problem.
- **encourage** weighing trade-offs of differing approaches.
- **contribute** to informed individual and group actions.



Don't try this alone!

While there is no one “right way” to approach framing a public issue, the process begins by ***engaging others***.

- Pull together an initial ***team of people*** interested in creating a way for people with different points of view to talk together. The team members don't have to represent every point of view in the community, although they should be dedicated to finding fairly representing the views of others.
 - Develop an ***outreach process*** for hearing from a wide range of community members with different perspectives and experiences
 - Make a particular effort to ***discover the views, the challenges, and the obstacles*** faced by those most affected by the issue at hand.
-

➤ Select a “frameable” issue

- Broad concern within the community
- Needs more than a yes or no answer
- No clear “right” answers.
- New approaches needed to help move forward
- Decision-making needs to be informed by public judgment

Issues unlikely to encourage public deliberation

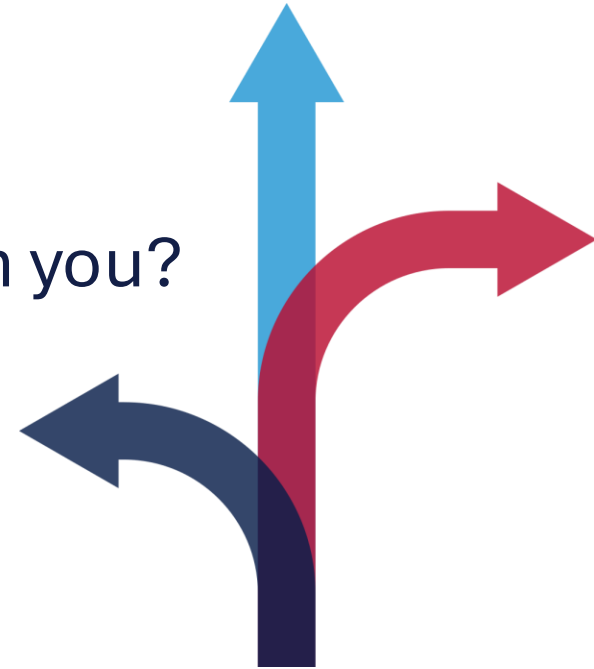
- An issue that is highly technical and requires technical solution
- Needs only a yes or no answer
- Has already been decided and needs a “rubber stamp”
- Requires an immediate response



➤ Gather information and insights

Interview a wide range of people:

- What concerns you about this issue?
- How does it affect you or others you know?
- What views have you heard from who disagree with you?
- What could be done about it and by whom?
- What do you think makes this issue so difficult?



Review available studies and data about the issue.

Involve policymakers and organizations that deal with the issue.

➤ List and group similar concerns

- List the **concerns** that community members expressed. (The list will likely be long!)
- Examine each concern with an eye to its ***underlying motivation***
- Cluster concerns that seem to be similarly motivated into ***overarching groups***, usually three or four.
- Write a ***statement*** that describes each group as an approach to addressing the problem.



➤ Identify pros, cons, trade-offs, and actions

List benefits and drawbacks for each approach.

Identify potential trade-offs.

Identify a range of potential actions.

- What might individuals do?
- What might groups of people do together?
- What might organizations do? (schools, nonprofits, faith groups, service organizations, businesses, etc.)
- What might elected officials and government agencies do?

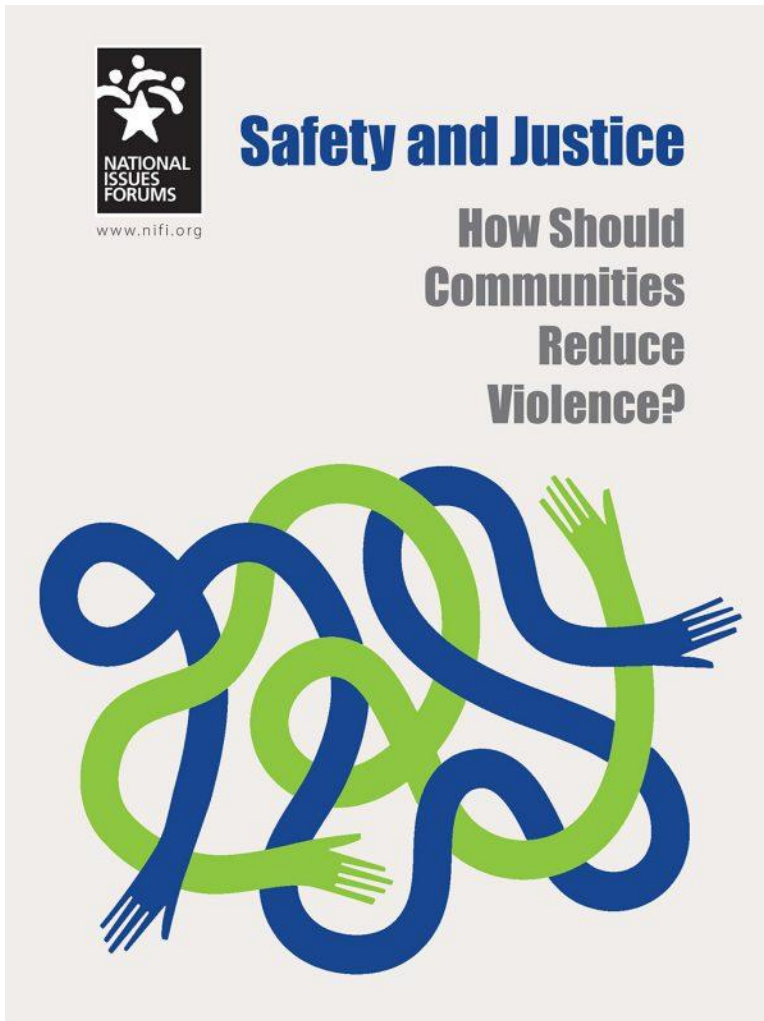


➤ Test the framework

- Schedule multiple test forums.
- Test forums should reach people with different points of view.
- It's ideal to have diverse views within each forum, but certainly necessary between the forum groups.
- Each test forum should include someone from framing team to note how well the framing works, what is missing, and what might be unclear.
- Revise framework as needed.



Safety & Justice: How Should Communities Reduce Violence?



This guide provides a framework for citizens to work through this important question together. It offers a range of approaches, each rooted in widely shared concerns and different ways of looking at the problem.

Approach 1: Enforce the Law Together

Expand policing while strengthening community-police partnerships.

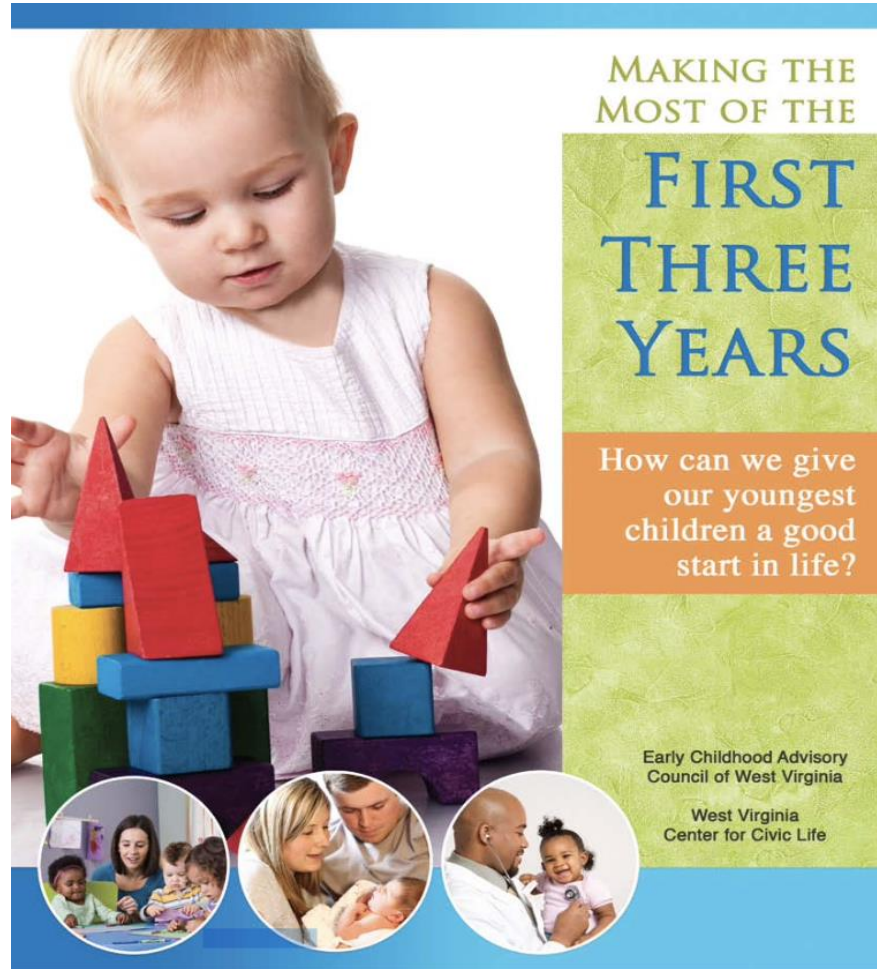
Approach 2: Apply the Law Fairly

Remove injustices, reform inequities, and improve accountability.

Approach 3: De-escalate and Prevent Violence

Address the causes of violence and take direct actions to disrupt conflict.

Making the Most of the First Three Years



This guide offers approaches to ensuring a good start for all children. While the perspectives are not mutually exclusive, they suggest different priorities and trade-offs.

Approach 1: Encourage caring and capable parenting

We should provide high quality programs to educate parents, strengthen families, and prepare new parents.

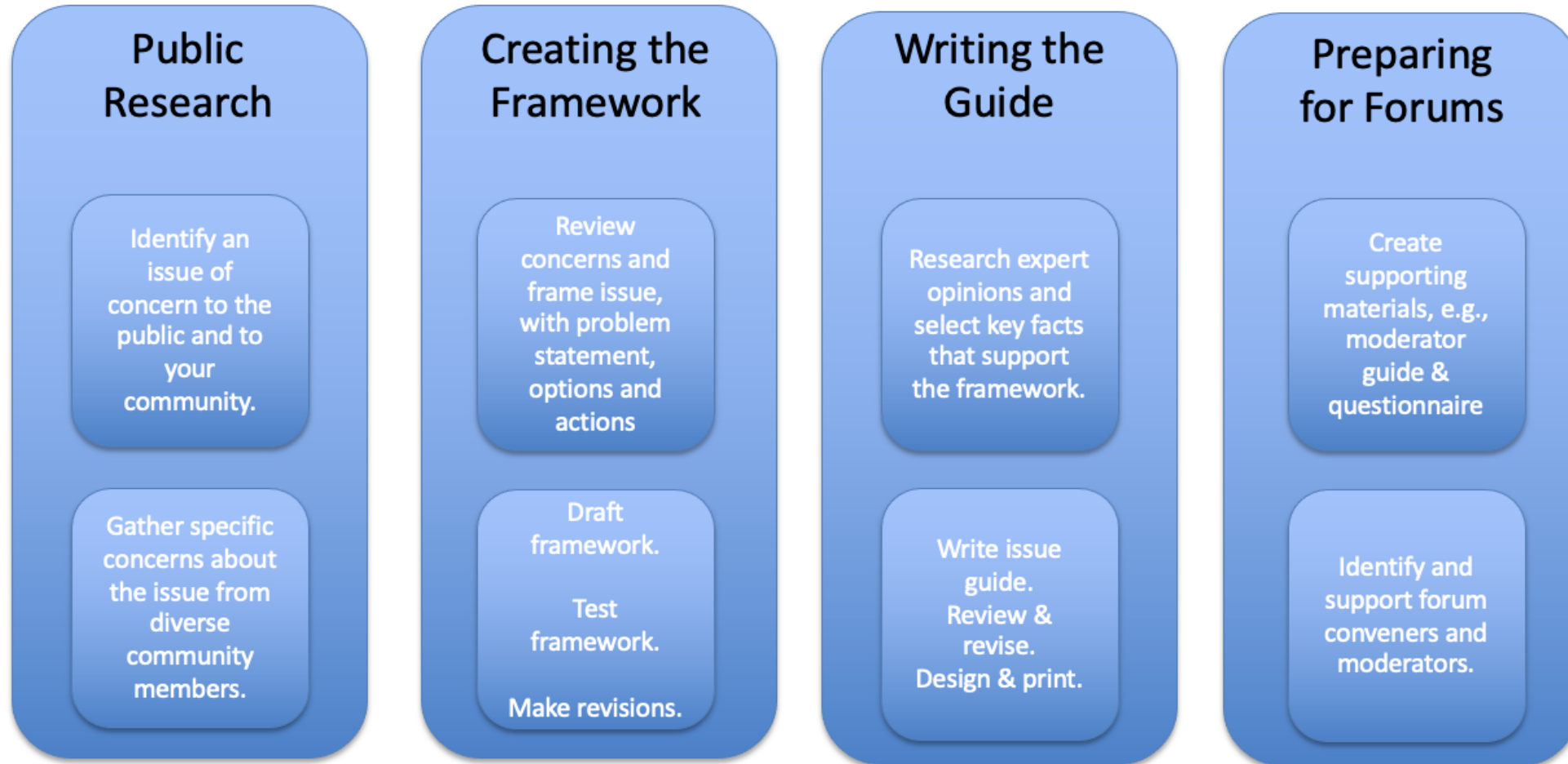
Approach 2: Create family-friendly communities

We should support families with young children in social networks, places of worship, and workplace policies.

Approach 3: Ensure opportunity for all

We need to level the playing field by addressing social and economic barriers that create barriers to success.

Creating an issue guide: the team's work



Framing in Action: Housing in Central AL



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Keys to the City Community Coaching



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Thank you for joining us!

Please stay in touch.

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