

Arc of Dialogue for Kitchen Conversations

(Revised Draft April, 2007)

Setting the Tone: Explaining the Purpose (approx. 2 minutes)

A Kitchen Conversation is an opportunity to continue learning from one another after your tour of 97 Orchard. We invite you to share your own experiences and to explore questions, ideas, or issues the tour may have sparked for you about the experiences of immigrants today.

Setting the Tone: Introducing the Agreements and Facilitator's Role (5 minutes)

Although (or because) most of us sitting around this kitchen table may not know each other very well, there's a great deal we can continue to learn from each other. As your facilitator, my role will be to guide this conversation, to offer questions for you to reflect on together and, from time to time, to share my own observations about the issues we're discussing.

To help us get the most out of this Kitchen Conversation, I'd like to share some simple guidelines that I will use to facilitate this conversation. Would anyone be willing to read an agreement aloud? [Review agreements.] Is there anything you would like to add to this list? [Make any necessary adjustments to agreements.] Is everyone comfortable with these basic agreements? Great. Let's get started.

Ice Breaker Question (5 minutes)

Let me invite you to introduce yourself and tell us what you say when people ask you where you are from. Why do you answer this way?

Experience Question (10 minutes)

Based on what you know through personal experience and other knowledge, how did the tour of 97 Orchard challenge or confirm your beliefs about immigration today?

Exploratory Questions (20 minutes)

Did the stories of the families on 97 Orchard Street give you any new insights about how life might be for immigrants today, or how it could be different? If so, can you share these insights with us?

Action-Oriented Questions (15 minutes)

Based on the immigration issues we've discussed, what changes would you like to see happen in your community? What can you do to help these changes occur?

Conclusion and Handout – once developed (approx. 2 minutes)

The Tenement hosts the Kitchen Conversation program because we believe in the power of dialogue in creating a space for our visitors to explore the beliefs that they and others have surrounding today's immigration debate. More importantly, we hope that such exploration leads our visitors toward playing a more active role in shaping these issues. This pamphlet is something that the Tenement developed to give you some ideas about how individuals - some historical, some contemporary - have been inspired to create change.

Thanks for exploring your thoughts with us today.