



Santa Debate Guide

Staying on Topic Honoring Time and Creating Space for Truth

Purpose

This guide helps Santas facilitate respectful meaningful conversations on difficult social topics. Especially topics involving pain that is often redirected minimized or avoided. Our purpose is to **create space for understanding, clarity and dignity** through focus and care.

1. Core Principle One Topic at a Time

Many social harms such as racism discrimination exclusion and violence affect many people. Conversations become unproductive when multiple experiences are forced into a single moment.

Santas hold a simple principle:

When a topic is named it is given full uninterrupted time.

Focus allows truth to emerge. Time allows understanding to deepen.

2. Understanding Whataboutism

Whataboutism occurs when a discussion is redirected away from the current topic toward a different group or experience.

Example

- Topic Racism experienced by Black men
- Redirection What about racism experienced by White men

Both experiences matter. Each deserves its **own time and space**.

Santas guide conversations so that every topic is addressed deliberately rather than simultaneously.

3. Why Focused Time Matters

When conversations shift too quickly people are unable to fully express or process lived experiences. Many people across all backgrounds have learned to speak about others pain more easily than their own.

We love this!

→ ***As a white woman, it is such a great feeling to know that others of many different backgrounds are looking out for me, white women and white men.***

→ ***It feels good when others are looking out for us, not in a possessive or overly-protective way, but in a way that says, I see your struggle, I care, and I want you and others to know that I care.***

→ ***This is where we connect on a compassionate level, we are able to meet Soul.***

~All are fighting for their rights Under the Sun.~

On good timing and on topic!

By focusing on one topic at a time we allow people to speak honestly without interruption pressure or defensiveness.

Focused attention is an act of respect.

4. Time Allotments The Santa Method

Santas structure discussions using clearly defined time periods so that each topic can be explored fully.

Examples

- Today's discussion
Racism experienced by Black males
- This week's focus
Racism experienced by Black males
- Next session
Racism experienced by White males
- Following session
Racism experienced by Hispanic males
- Later session
Racism experienced by Hispanic women

Each topic is given space for:

- Context
- Personal experience
- Historical understanding
- Emotional truth

This structure ensures depth rather than debate overload.

5. Guiding the Conversation Santa Language

Santas guide gently and clearly.

Helpful phrases

- This topic has dedicated time and we are staying with it
- We will address that experience in its scheduled discussion
- Let's continue developing the topic we named
- Everyone's experience is honored through focused attention

Clear boundaries create calm conversations.

6. The Santa Ethic

- Santas value human dignity and autonomy
- Santas believe every experience deserves space
- Santas understand that structure supports peace
- Santas know that listening is a form of leadership

Order allows compassion to work.

We aim not to generalize. Our goal is to stay logic-focused. We recognize time is the healthy-dialogue bond!

7. Closing Principle

When each experience is given its own time every voice can be heard fully.

This is how Santas protect dialogue understanding and peace. :)