Smart Politics Topics

How to Talk About Abortion

May 25, 2022

SMART POLITICS

Presented by

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JoinSmart.org

Exercise #1

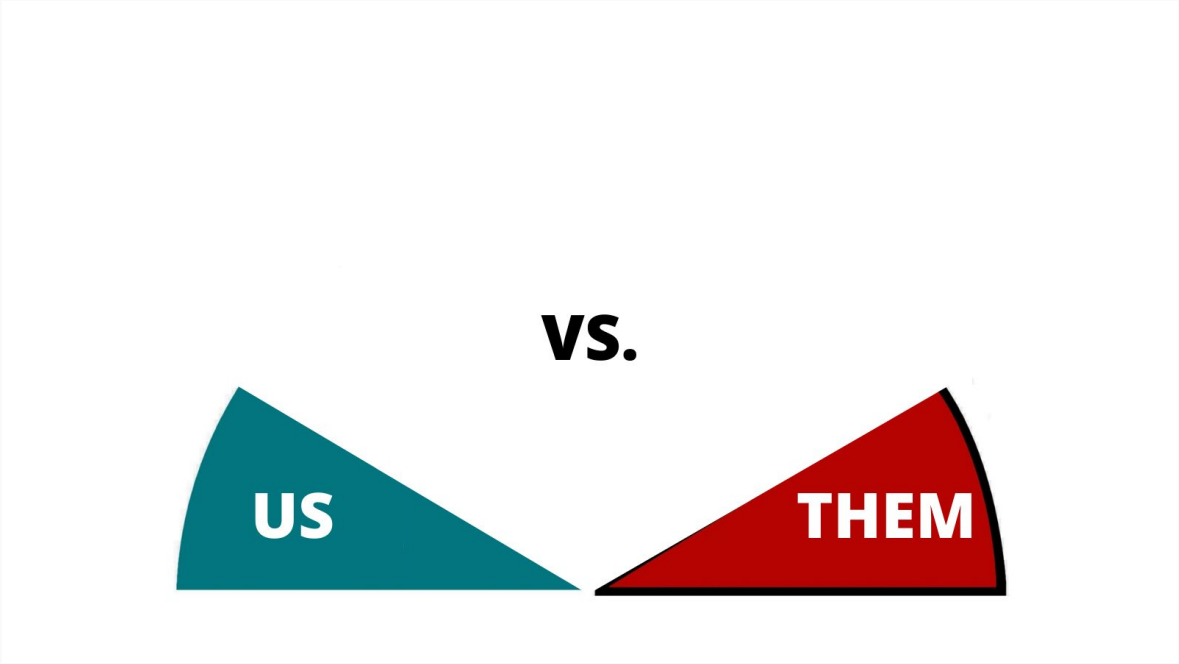
1) Introduce yourself
2) Why are you here?
3) How did your last abortion dialogue go?

Overview

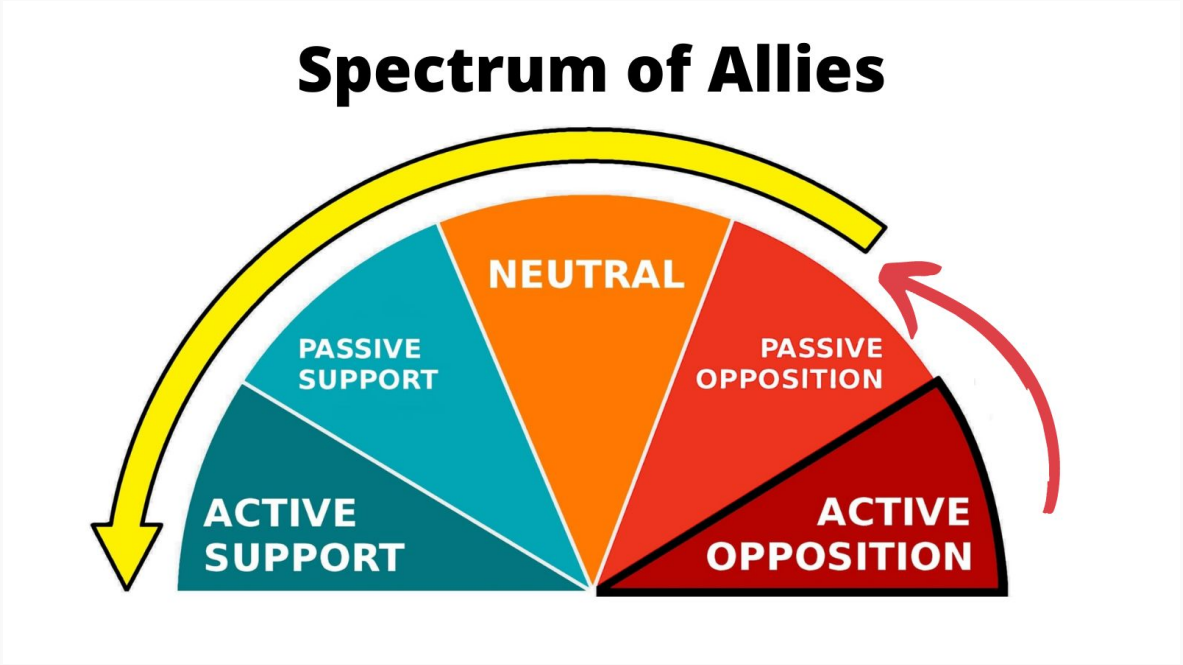
- Why do we need to talk about abortion?
- Review
- Full Demo
- Step-by-step practice
- Q & A

Why do we need to talk about abortion?

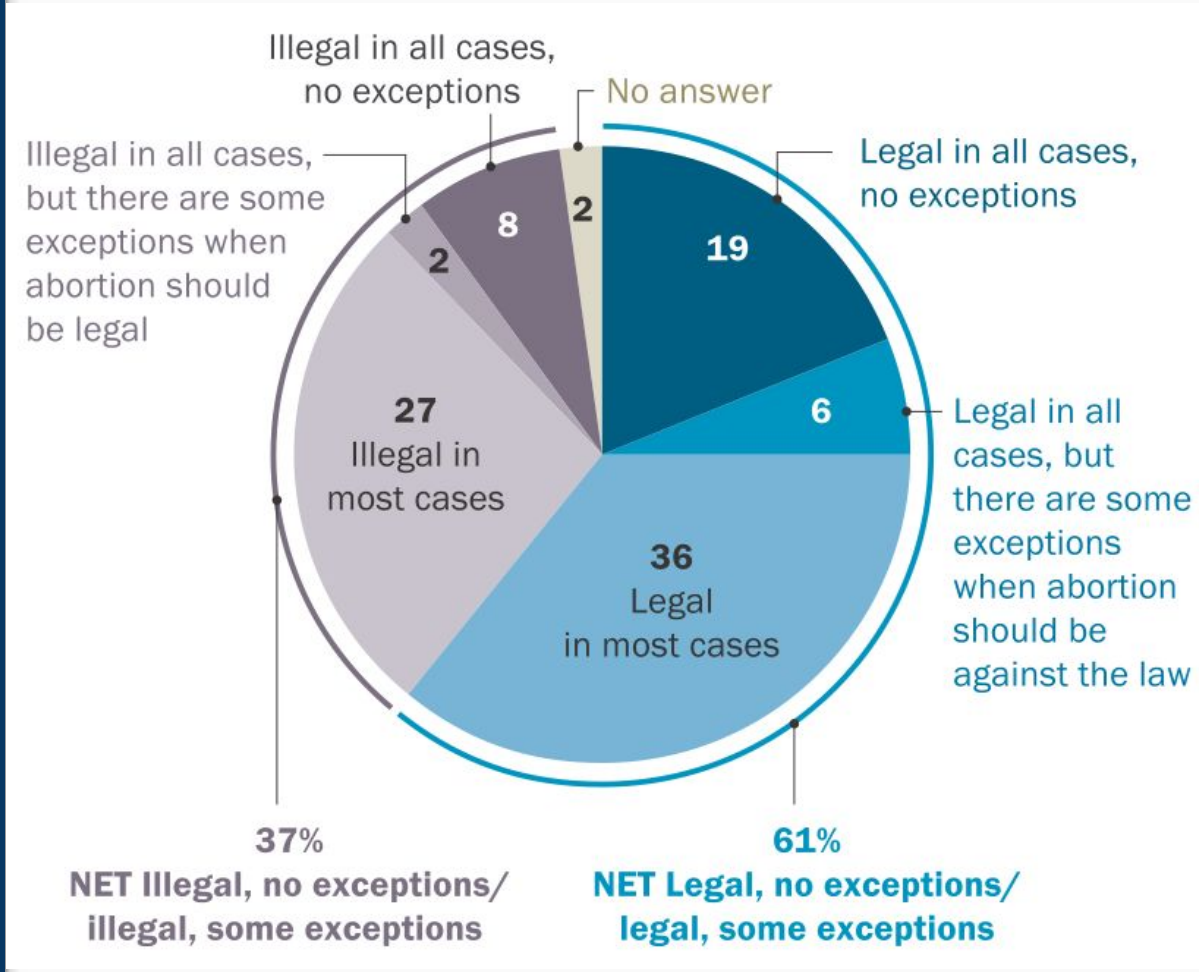
We lost the fight of us vs them



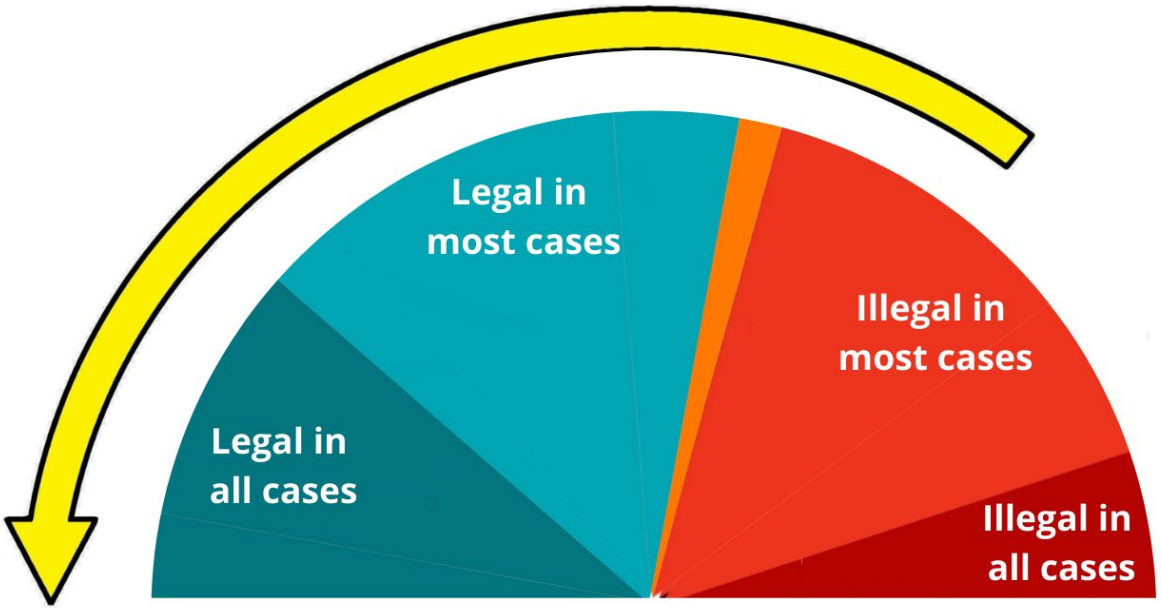
To succeed, we need to expand “us”



Distribution of attitudes on abortion



Spectrum of Allies analysis for abortion issue



Review

Five Big Mistakes

1. Thinking those who disagree with you are **BAD PEOPLE**
2. Letting your **EMOTIONS** get in the way
3. Trying to **CONTROL** what others think
4. **SHAMING** and making others feel bad
5. **ARGUING** with reason and evidence

Exercise #2

How do the 5 big mistakes tend to play out in your current conversations about abortion?

A Smarter Way

Smart Politics Defined

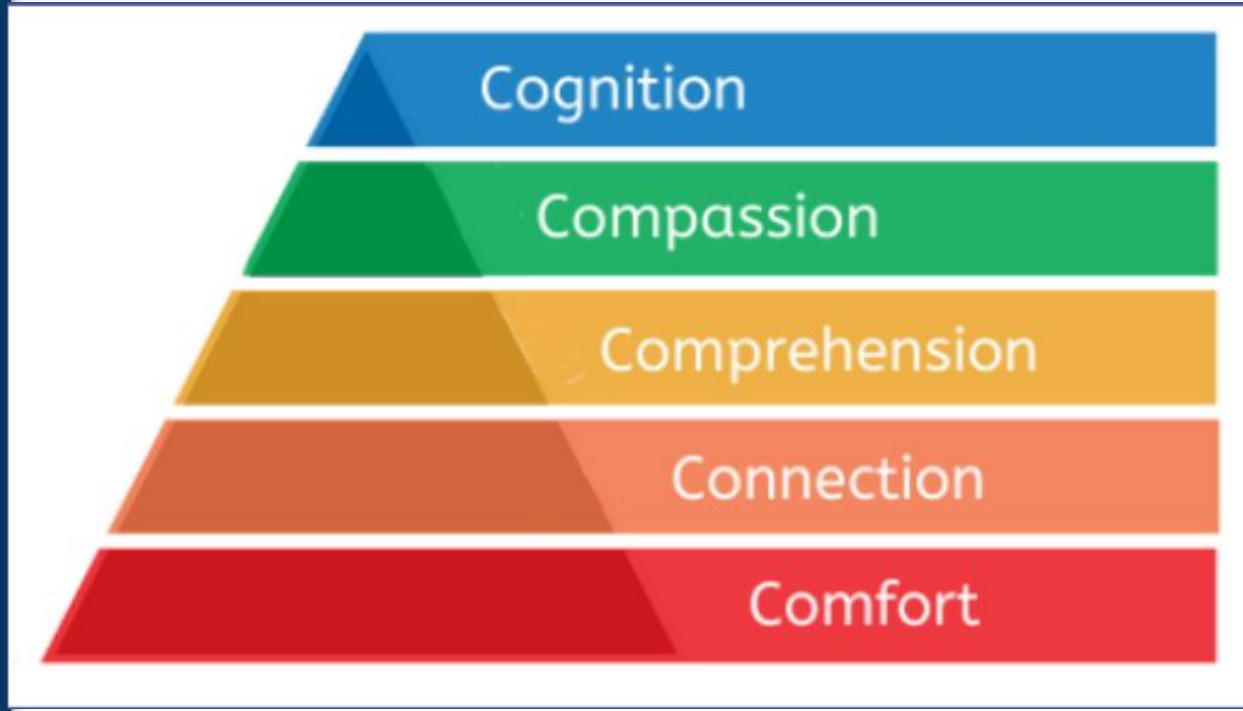
- Advocacy method
- Person-to-person
- Conversation-based
- Psychologically-informed
- Grounded in democratic values

Why do Smart Politics conversations work?

They make it easier for people to rethink their attitudes and beliefs

- Respect autonomy
- Don’t trigger defensiveness
- Bypass the Belief Defense System
- Meet the other person’s emotional needs (not yours)
- Increase rationality, curiosity, empathy, self-reflection, and open-mindedness

Change Conversation Pyramid



Change Conversation Cycle

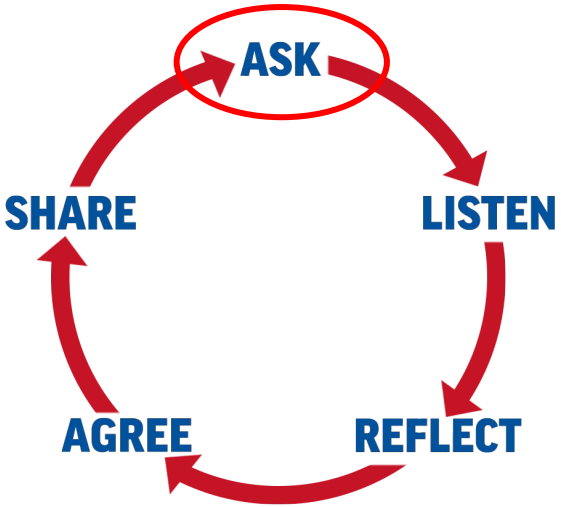
Q & A

Demo

1
Ask nonjudgmental, open-ended questions
ASK
LISTEN
2
Try to understand the other person's views
REFLECT
3
Summarize the other person's perspective
AGREE
4
Identify and name areas of common ground
SHARE
5
Share your perspective without making an argument

Practice

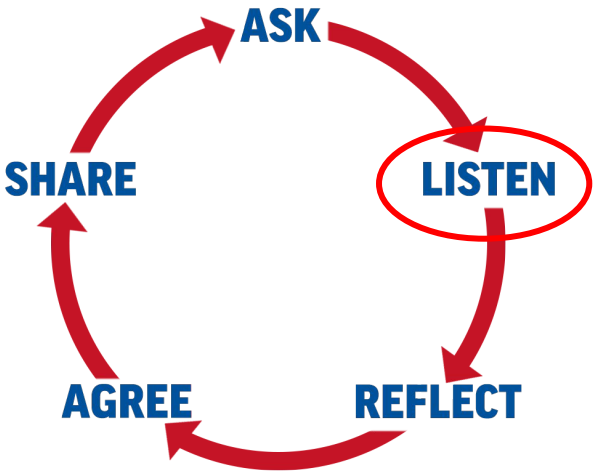
ASK



Exercise #3:

Your sister-in-law is a Republican who has previously described herself as “pro-life.” How might you initiate a conversation with her?

LISTEN



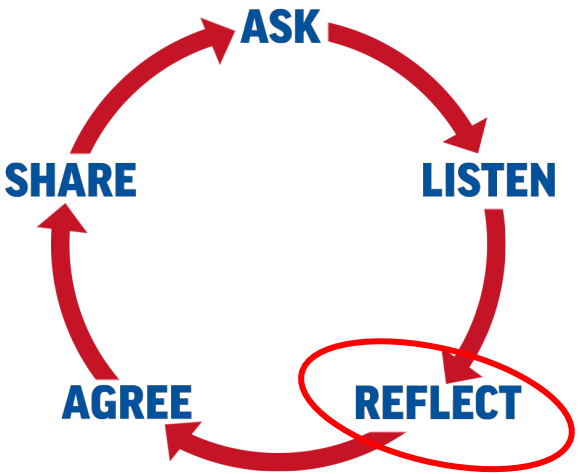
Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene
@RepMTG

The greatest choice a woman can make is becoming a mother.

10:33 AM · May 17, 2022 · Twitter Media Studio

2,273 Retweets **2,463** Quote Tweets **14.1K** Likes

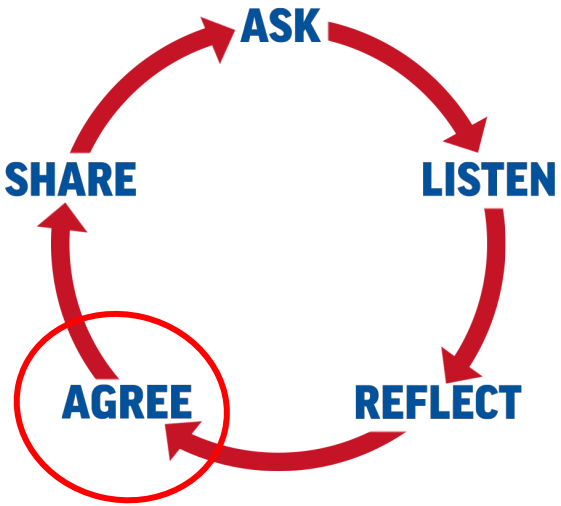
REFLECT



Exercise #4:

- Write a reflection for MTG's speech
- Try to include text, subtext, and emotion

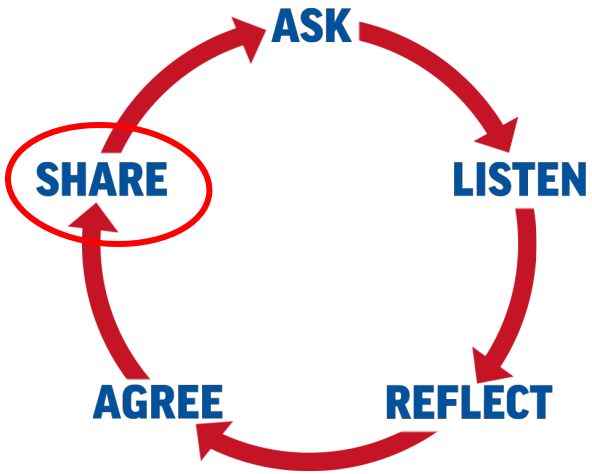
AGREE



Exercise #5:

- Make a list of three things you could agree with from MTG's speech
- Try to include
  - One emotion
  - One value
  - One goal

SHARE



Exercise #6:

Think of a personal story you that might help you achieve a short-term outcome goal in this conversation.

Q & A

SMART POLITICS

UPCOMING:

- Summer Campaign Bootcamp
- Webinar on talking about guns
- Book Clubs
- Sunday night Practice Group
- Intro to Smart Politics webinar

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Thank you!

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After Party