

# Guide to Using Table Tent Discussion Questions

The Avi Schaefer Fund (ASF) partnered with Ask Big Questions® (ABQ) to create a series of tools geared toward assisting students on college campuses with navigating conflict between individuals and groups. The goal is to create a campus environment that allows students to engage in meaningful and respectful conversations across their differences.

The table tent questions are intended to foster and facilitate thoughtful conversations and introspection among students. One's ability - or willingness - to hear and be open to other's opinions and viewpoints is highly conditioned by the range of one's experience(s). By being open to other realities, narratives and experiences beyond our own subjective view of the world, we can better understand opposing viewpoints and worldviews. The hope is to move us from notions of "right" and "wrong", "pro" and "anti", to a more open discussion where there is space for multiple narratives which represent the realities of all individuals present.

There are many creative ways to use these table tents. In particular, we hope that students and Hillel professionals will consider using these during an Avi Shabbat program, though they can be used for any program where you find it useful.

Think about your goals in advance of the program and choose a student facilitator to begin the program with sharing the overview and expectations.

## Below is a suggested program outline:

1. **Introducing the Program:** A student leader or Hillel professional introduces the program by sharing Avi's values and the reason ASF exists. (See below) Additionally, the individual introducing the program broadly explains the reason behind the program, emphasizing any particular challenges or dynamics relevant to this community. Outline how we will spend our time together.
2. **Split into Small Groups:** Based on the number of students participating, create small groups of students to work together at stations or tables. Make sure to identify a conversation facilitator for each group ahead of time. If appropriate, designate a note taker in each group for sharing their responses with the larger group. Notes can be taken on chart paper, paper table covering or a note pad.

## In each small group, a student facilitator will:

- Create discussion guidelines with the group and make sure everyone in the group agrees on them before beginning. Guidelines to offer could include: assuming good faith in one another; agreeing what is shared in the conversation stays in this conversation, speaking in the first-person and from your own experiences and being open to listen and learn from one another.
- Explain that this is a series of three big questions (table tents) and each big question has a few reflective questions to help get the conversation started.
- Choose a question from the first table tent to start with, invite participants to introduce themselves and answer the first question.
- Begin with the first card focused on the individual/personal level (For Whom Are You Responsible?), followed by the Community (Who Is In Your Community?) and Campus (How Do We Build Bridges?).
- Continue to explore the questions on each of the three table tents.

The Avi Schaefer Fund would love to know how the program went and if the discussion cards were helpful. Your input is invaluable in making these programs successful. We are always looking to improve our programs. Please send your feedback and suggestions to us at [info@avischaeferfund.org](mailto:info@avischaeferfund.org) with "Table Tent Feedback" in the subject line.

## About the Avi Schaefer Fund

The Avi Schaefer Fund (ASF) is dedicated to nurturing the values of mutual respect and understanding through cultivating opportunities for informed dialogue and by empowering young people to be change-makers in the world.

Our focus began on college campuses, then expanded to engage young professionals and the general community. Our work continues to be strengthened by our partnerships with several organizations, enabling us to expand our reach and increase our impact.

We focus on creating and convening individuals and communities where diverse, and often antagonistic viewpoints, can come together to share, listen and grow. Our main areas of focus are intra-Jewish dialogue and interfaith dialogue.

### "Seek Peace and Pursue It!"

Our values are a reflection of Avi's commitment to:

- The Jewish people, their values and traditions;
- The safety and security of the State of Israel and ALL of the people in the region;
- Promoting understanding and peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

## About Ask Big Questions®

Ask Big Questions® partners with colleges, universities, and organizations to engage young adults in reflective community conversations about purpose, identity, and responsibility. These conversations build trust, strengthen community, and deepen understanding across lines of difference. Since 2011, Ask Big Questions® has trained over 1,100 student leaders, faculty, and staff on 120 campuses in our method of community conversation, engaging over 50,000 students. For more information, visit [askbigquestions.org](http://askbigquestions.org).

Ask Big Questions® was developed, launched and scaled by Hillel International and is a registered trademark of Hillel International.