



Bridge: Humanities Lab

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Background

- Originally, our group wanted to do a documentary sharing the stories of the older generation and then decided that we wanted to do a more engaging video that allowed for more intergenerational connections
- In class, we were learning about the various ramifications of implicit bias for societal perception of our age. These biases are not permanent in other dimensions (race, gender, etc) and can be unlearned through dialogue.
- We decided to examine generational differences through the dialogue we share together. To accomplish this, we drew inspiration from classic Jubilee Middle Grounds conversations because of its capacity to convey authentic conversations

5:06- 6:30

COUNTRY VS CITY TEENS

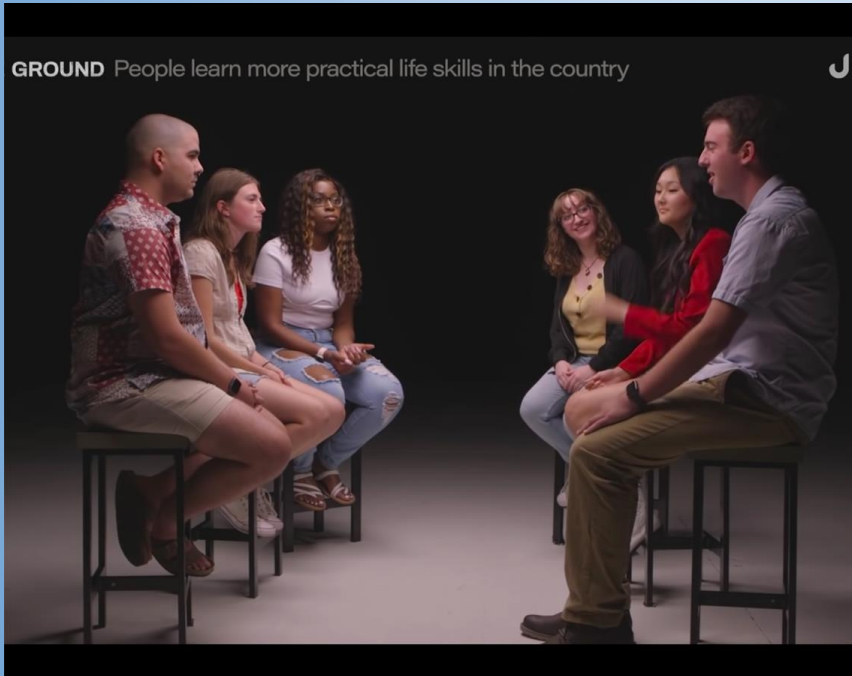
MIDDLE GROUND



What we did

- Brainstormed variations of the middle ground template to foster a change of ideas rather than the expression of ideas.
- Formulated questions based off of age biases
- Brought participants from every age demographic
- Facilitated a discussion between the participants in a safe space setting
- Ensured participants authenticity by encouraging them to say what they will (emotional, profanity, etc).
- Observed the changes in opinions through the flow of the conversation
- To stray away from the original format and to make it more accessible for everyone, we visually represented changes of opinions, changed the physical layout to encourage collaboration and shedded the side dynamic to foster more consensus rather than divisions.

Conversation Design



Filming Experience

Pros

- Each member successfully accomplished their filming goals
- The participants enjoyed the conversation and interacted well with each other
- No technical, interpersonal, and/or external issues during filming.

Cons

- Group-Members could have had more prompts for a better filming experience
- The space could have been better suited for filming
- Could have gotten a more diverse representative population

Bias & Shortcomings in Intergenerational conversations

We all have our bias, and overcoming these is not small feat. Between the generations, each of us holds different assumptions about the other group that results in negative externalities society wide.



Youngsters to Elders

Negative stereotype	Expectation of 18 - 64-year- olds	Experience of people aged 65+
Memory loss	57%	25%
Unable to drive	45%	14%
Serious illness	42%	21%
Sexually inactive	34%	21%
Depression or sadness	29%	20%

INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATION (IGC)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- People of all age come with their own bag of tendential behaviors that are influenced by their own socio-politico-economic histories
- IGC's can make way for soft boundaries and permeabilities
- Preconceived notions of under/in communicability or can be broken
- *“In Dialogue everybody wins”*
- Tolerance and respect for points of (dis)connect

Overcoming Implicit Bias

See people as individuals

Guide conversations towards authenticity and vulnerability. Free expression aids in the dissemination of group synergy, which will focus the participants on their individuality instead of their group.

Work towards changing automatic responses

Consciously catching your bias in the act is a very effective dissolvent for implicit bias. In the conversation, when you notice someone has an implicit bias, ask a follow up question focusing on the root of that belief.

Increase exposure

Encourage participants to actively befriend a member of the outgroup they have an implicit bias for.

Activity Instructions

STEP ONE - Match your table to the number you were given.

STEP TWO - Discuss with those at your table the ways to overcome implicit bias while we get ready.

STEP THREE - Listen to directions from your facilitator



Activity Instructions

STEP FOUR - Each person will take a turn playing the facilitator. Lead your group in a conversation of your choosing about the nature of aging in American culture.

STEP FIVE - After everyone has had a chance to facilitate, go over the whiteboard responses your guide has noted.

