

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND BRAVER ANGELS  
WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE  
SELF-ORGANIZING GROUPS**

**Participant Agenda**

1. Introductions: name and connection to the University
2. Icebreaker question: What was your favorite food as a child?
3. Goals of this gathering

We have come together in an initiative sponsored by the Braver Angels, With Malice Toward None, with these goals:

- To gain support for our personal interest in moving past the hostility and animosity for our fellow Americans that the recent election has stirred up and brought to a head.
- To identify actions steps we each take individually and with others to reduce polarization in our own circles, our communities, and our country.
- To share what we learn and commit to here with other groups working for the same goal of malice towards none and holding the country together.

An important point: Although it's fine to express our feelings about the campaign, the candidates, and the election, let's not spend most of our time discussing how misguided the other side is. Let's focus on building bridges.

4. Why We Each Came
  - Everyone says (in one minute or less) why they accepted the invitation to participate in this gathering.
5. The importance of what we are doing here
  - Question: Given the state of rancor and disunity in the country, why is it important that we reduce contempt for our fellow citizens who see politics differently and strive for connection and collaboration, knowing that it will be hard?
    - 1 minute of personal reflection
    - Everyone gets up to 2 minutes to respond. No cross talk.
    - Joint reflection on the main themes that just came out: What stood out as we listened to one another?

Brief break (5 minutes)

6. Action Steps

- A Braver Angels reading—“What We Will Do to Hold the Country Together”
- Fill in the action grid. (See below)
- Sharing action steps
  - Sharing an action step from each category with the whole group
- Next steps
  - Do we have an agreement to share notes (no names attached) with one another via group email and with Braver Angels
  - Do we have an interest in participating in further conversations with this group and perhaps with other groups and activities organized by Braver Angels?

7. Check out: Everyone gets 30 seconds to share how they feel about what we have done here today for ourselves and our country.

**ACTION STEPS**

Our country has rich resources to draw on. Some of these resources come from our past experience with times of great division, and some are present now in We-the-People.

Question: What can each of us do individually, and what can we do together, to move past malice and disdain for people who believe and vote differently, so that we can work together for the future of the country?

This is not about what *other* people should do on their own, but what *we* personally and collectively can do to help avoid a long term civic divorce.

Please write down your ideas, starting with what you plan to do personally.

Personal Actions (Me as an individual)	Actions to take by those of us with similar views