SIGNS OF GENUINE DELIBERATION/DIALOGUE

What are we looking for?

- Dialogue has a focus on mutual understanding (usually about our values).
- Deliberation focuses on 1) a shared problem and 2) developing solutions to the problem.

SIGNS OF GOOD DELIBERATION:

- 1. Reasons expressed
- 2. References to external sources engaged
- 3. Disagreement between participants expressed
 - a. ensures exposure to diverse perspectives
 - b. Decreases chance for polarization
- 4. Equal levels of participation during the deliberation
 - a. No participant should dominate or silence others
 - b. How should this be measured?
 - i. Frequency of contributions?
 - ii. Length of contributions?
 - iii. Substance of contribution? Adding something NEW to the conversation
- 5. Coherence with regard to the structure and **topic** of deliberation
 - a. On topic?
 - b. Drifting from one topic to another quickly indicates issues are not being deeply engaged
- 6. Participant engagement with one another
 - a. Steer away from monologues online discussions can sometimes turn into this
 - b. Do participants engage a new issue when they post or do they respond to what another contributor wrote?
 - i. Frequent new topics signals a lack of engagement
 - ii. Want to avoid talking past one another
 - c. Asking Questions
 - i. indicates engagement with the topic or with fellow participants.
 - ii. Genuine questions attempt to draw information from others/invite engagement
 - d. Metatalk: "talk about the talk"
 - i. "expresses what the participant *thinks* has happened and why
 - ii. It can:
 - 1. Identify consensus
 - 2. Identify conflict
 - 3. Clarify expressed opinions
 - iii. Requires reflection on the dialogue taking place

Stromer-Galley, Jennifer. 2007. Measuring Deliberation's Content: A Coding Scheme. *Journal of Public Deliberation* 3 (1): 1-35.