

Revisiting Our Advisory Contract

Purpose: Remind the group of its shared expectations, revise expectations as needed, and set the tone for difficult conversations. Draw connections between the factors that make a strong community and the norms that can help ensure it remains strong.

APPROXIMATE TIME:
30 minutes

MATERIALS: NONE

ADVISOR NOTES:

Reaffirm Advisory Norms

You will be prompted to revisit your advisory contract at the beginning of each section of *Community Matters* to reflect on the ways the group has been honoring its contract and where they feel they can do better. This activity also provides the opportunity to add to or revise any of the norms and expectations before moving forward with this section of the Facing History advisory program.

PROCEDURE:

1. Reflect Individually in Journals about Your Advisory Contract

- Start by reading aloud your advisory contract, perhaps using the **Wraparound** strategy (visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media to learn about this teaching strategy).
- Then ask advisees to respond to the following questions in their journals, citing specific examples from past meetings to support their thinking. Tell them that they will be sharing their responses in small groups.
 - What are examples from past advisory meetings where we did a great job of honoring one or more norms on our contract? What helped us do a great job?
 - What are examples from past advisory meetings where we struggled to uphold one or more norms on our contract? Why do you think we struggled? What might we do differently in the future to honor that norm?
 - What do you think, if anything, needs to be revised (reworded, added, deleted), and why?

2. Discuss and Revise the Advisory Contract

- Divide the advisees into small groups and have them discuss the three journal questions one at a time. Then ask them to share highlights from their discussion, making a list on the board in three columns of their main ideas.

- Depending on their input, decide as a group whether or not your advisory contract needs to be revised, and make the changes as needed. You might make changes on the original contract or create a new one.
- Then have everyone, including the advisor, sign the contract again.

3. Commit to a Norm as a Closing Activity

- Conclude the meeting by asking each advisee to complete the following sentence starter in their journals. Revise the sentence starter as needed to fit what you think your group needs at this time:

For the next month, I am going to work on _____ (choose a norm from the advisory contract). One way that I will work on it is by . . .

- Then have each advisee share their completed sentence starter in a **Wraparound**.