

BROTHERHOODOFPURPOSE

PRACTICAL LODGE GUIDES



Leading a Lodge Discussion

Draw out the experience of the room.

A practical facilitator's guide for meaningful Masonic education.

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THE PROGRAM / START HERE

One program, three conversations

A facilitator guide, three session plans, participant sheets and a quick reference.

You do not have to be the most knowledgeable Mason in the room. You do have to prepare and make it possible for the brothers to think. This program develops conversations about Masonic conduct: hearing fairly, correcting a mistake and offering help. The six separate PDF files serve different jobs; they are not six books to teach.

BEFORE YOU LEAD: STUDY AND REHEARSE

Read this facilitator guide cover to cover at least twice. Then read your chosen session with its two handouts beside it. Rehearse the opening, questions, instructions and closing aloud in front of a mirror with a clock before attempting the session. Complete the exercises yourself. Practice pausing. Know the route well enough to look up and listen.

What you need	What to do
For yourself	Study this guide, choose one session and print its host pages. Each session names its live route and two participant sheets. Keep the two-page quick reference beside your script.
For the brothers	Print only the chosen session's two participant sheets, one set per person, plus two spare sets. Pencils are enough.
For the lodge	Arrange 15 or 30 minutes with the presiding officer. Confirm the setting, permitted subjects and eligible participants.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

A brother can explain a useful difference, consider another experience or try a better response in his own words. A changed sentence may show more learning than everybody agreeing with your closing remarks.

FACILITATOR GUIDE / UNDERSTAND

What is your job in the room?

Choose the kind of help the moment needs.

The room needs...	Your job	An ordinary example
A fact or unfamiliar idea	Explain briefly	Clarify a word or give the historical context needed to understand the story.
Different experiences considered	Facilitate	Ask what happened, compare interpretations, and check what the story actually tells us.
A usable skill	Demonstrate and practice	Show an opening sentence, let pairs try their own, then discuss what changed.
An authorized decision	Use the lodge's procedure	Refer a motion or actual dispute to the proper officer and process. Education is not a substitute vote.

BE OPEN ABOUT YOUR PURPOSE

Say what the subject is, what is fixed and what is open for examination. You can hold a view and facilitate honestly if the room can test that view. If a decision is already made, explain it plainly; a pretend consultation wastes the brothers' time.

Draw out experience, then examine it. You may challenge an unsupported claim, correct a verified factual error, or stop an insulting exchange. Fair opportunity to contribute does not require treating every assertion as equally accurate.

Active-learning studies support making room for thought and practice, not a magic speaking ratio. Explain enough to make the task possible. Then hear what the brothers do with it. [1]

OPTIONAL / AFTER YOUR FIRST SESSION

A discussion plan, filled in

Fictional ten-minute conversation; not an extra part of Sessions 1-3.

Arrange the permitted setting and time first. This small plan shows how to use an ordinary scene without giving a lecture. It matches the blank plan on the next page.

Your plan asks	A usable answer
What to tell apart	Hearing a concern fairly is different from agreeing with it.
Short scene / source	Original fiction: a brother interrupts a plan for app-only notices because three members cannot receive them. No final decision yet.
0-2 / story and thought	Read the scene; ask what was stated and what we are guessing. Leave thirty seconds to think.
2-5 / partner task	Each names a question to check before choosing the notice method. About one minute each; last minute compare. A trio takes one minute each.
5-8 / compare and connect	Hear two questions. Ask what each might reveal. Connect to the level: does liking the speaker change how we hear the concern?
8-10 / close and check	Each thinks of a first sentence that hears the concern without deciding the app issue. Hear one volunteer; thank the room. Silence is not proof of understanding.

Prepare one fallback: "Who receives the current messages, and how do we know?" Offer it as a possibility, then ask what the room would change. Do not invent a success story.

OPTIONAL / AFTER YOUR FIRST SESSION

Plan one conversation

Optional planning aid. Use the filled example first; rehearse before leading.

What should the brothers learn to tell apart? Setting and total time

Short scene or reading; source and permission if needed

Opening question; quiet thinking time

Partner task: who, what, how long, and what they will report

Two follow-up questions; Masonic connection; fallback if quiet

Closing question and time; what would show understanding?

Add your exact elapsed minutes. Keep private reflection private. If more explanation is needed, shorten the activity honestly; do not pretend the whole room completed it.