

Bridging Minds Group

Description & Rules

Bridging Minds Group

Welcome to our Bridging Minds Group (BMG)! We're an active online community devoted to having civil discussions on politics, patriotism, and the social issues that affect our lives. Top priorities include looking at the facts and finding common ground. We believe the hateful, contorted discourse in America has to stop. We appreciate that we're a country of different opinions and perspectives, and we're taking action to show that we want to and can work together!

OBJECTIVES

Bridging Minds facilitates understanding in order to build bridges across party lines. All viewpoints are welcomed and encouraged knowing that it is our individual responsibility to create the cooperation we desire!

We sincerely hope you will join in our mission by following these Rules of Engagement:

CONTENT REGULATION

1) ALLOWED MATERIALS FOR POSTS AND COMMENTS:

- a Media sources must be rated "mostly to highly factual" according to the Media Bias Fact Check (MBFC) website, located here: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>. This includes the official YouTube Channels and Facebook pages of those approved sources. Media sources now include not only the publisher, but also the originator of the article.
- b Opinion pieces whether labeled as a "column," "analysis," "editorial," "commentary," "essay," "viewpoint," or "perspective," that fall within our MBFC guidelines and are clearly noted in the post as AN OPINION PIECE.
- c If MBFC guidelines aren't met, Members may ask for approval @BMGFacilitators. No hate speech or inflammatory language.

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2) PROHIBITED MATERIALS FOR POSTS AND COMMENTS:

- a Memes, GIFs, screenshots, pictures, or other similar content that cannot be sourced or accounted for or that disrupts the flow of the discussion.
- b Facebook pages and YouTube channels that are for personal use, solicitations, or petitions.
- c In the interest of protecting our Group from Facebook violations and to preserve the integrity of our discussions, conspiracy theories and any reference to anti-government extremist groups will be deleted.

3) MATERIAL ALLOWED WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION – Please message us @BMGFacilitators and if approved note in the post, “Admin Approved”:

- a Opinion pages that do not clearly meet MBFC criteria – as noted in 1b above.
- b Memes, GIFs, screenshots, and pictures. Facebook pages and YouTube channels of public figures that do not already pass MBFC requirements.
- c Infographics and Twitter pages on a case by case basis.

4) ANCILLARY SOURCING TOPICS:

- a Support claims and statements with factual evidence, if not already present in the discussion.
- b Date check your sources. Information should be as current as possible, if relevant.
- c Use the Group search function to determine if there is already an open discussion on the topic/article you'd like to discuss. (“Search This Group” box in righthand column.)
- d Please no more than three posts a day per Member in order to allow time/space for everyone to contribute.

*POSTS AND COMMENTS THAT VIOLATE THESE GUIDELINES WILL BE REMOVED.

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POST RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) We hope that you will enjoy participating in and learning from your discussion. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to ask our Moderators at @BMGFacilitators.
- 2) Do not bait an argument or aim to rile emotions in presenting a post. It is best to pose questions or ask for thoughts to encourage a fair and open discussion.
- 3) When you post, you can remove your own comments, disable comments, and remove your post completely.
- 4) If you feel the need to disable comments; for example, the discussion has turned to arguing or has gone off-topic, please first contact our Moderators at @BMGFacilitators.
- 5) Admin reserves the right to intervene at any time.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- 1) Attempt to diffuse arguments and regain a civil discussion within one or two comments.
- 2) If civil discussion is not regained after one or two attempts, disengage.
- 3) Report the comment(s) to @BMGFacilitators if the argument persists.
- 4) Any Members refusing to disengage will be asked by Admin to leave the discussion. Refusal to do so or arguing with Admin will result in Members being muted for 24 hrs.

CONTENT REPORTING

- 1) If you report content, DO NOT continue to engage with the reported content.
- 2) Report and disengage, please. The Admin Team will address it as soon as we can.

CONDUCT

1) BASIC COURTESY

- a Laughing emojis used to express condescension, sarcasm or disrespect are not allowed. You will be asked to remove them.
- b No vulgarity, name-calling, sarcasm or personal attacks toward anyone (including political figures or parties). For example, "I think the governor has hit a new low and is abusing his/her power" would be acceptable, while "The governor scrapes the swamp

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pit for morals and behaves like a dictator" is not. Personal attacks toward anyone will be removed

- c No YELLING. Typing in ALL capital letters to convey outrage or hostility only results in more anger and is not allowed. All caps to help with vision or a few words to emphasize a point is acceptable.
- d No over-generalizations that are false and offensive to groups of people. They affect the quality of our discussions and do not uphold our goal of building bridges between our political differences.
- e No promotions, self-promotions, or spam.
- f Respect privacy. Being a part of this Group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make us special, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the Group stays with us.

2) INTERACTIONS WITH OUR VOLUNTEER MODERATORS

- a Everyone in this community is responsible for their own behavior. New Members will be given extra help, but Seasoned Members are expected to follow the rules and avoid creating extra work for the Admin Team. Please welcome and help out any New Members (waving hand symbol) with advice or gentle nudges with regards to the rules. It's up to all of us to make our goal of civil, informative discussions a reality. A commitment to kindness and putting people before politics play a big role.
- b Members who publicly refuse to cooperate and/or argue with Admin will be muted for a period of 24 hrs. Please address concerns privately.
- c Blocking members of our Admin Team is not allowed. We need to be in communication in order to work in the best interest of all.
- d Public statements/accusations toward the Group, the Admin Team, or other Members will be removed and may also result in a 24-hour mute.
- e Members that continue to violate rules will be removed from the Group.

*ALL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS MADE BY ADMIN ARE CONSIDERED WARNINGS.

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SUMMARY AND APPEAL PROCESS

Admin may take one or more of the following actions to enforce these rules: removing content, disabling post comments, private messaging Members, commenting within a post thread, muting Members, removing Members, and blocking Members. If you feel we have made a mistake or that you have been treated badly by another Member, contact Admin at @BMGFacilitators to discuss it. We want to help and hear everyone's concerns but will not engage in arguments. We also reserve the right to reverse any action taken. We use our authority for what we believe is in the best interest of the Group and its objectives.

Any questions or concerns, please privately contact the Admin Team. We are happy to help and see your reason for reaching out as an opportunity for everyone to succeed. We welcome polite reminders, Member-to-Member, of the rules and objectives; however, Members should not be using the rules to shame each other or as an arguing point. One gentle reminder is enough.

By becoming more informed of the facts, calmer, and more confident in sharing our views, we're actively bridging the divide in our Country!