



OFFICIAL LEAD MAGNET - PROPRIETARY 5-PILLAR METHODOLOGY

# THE CIVIL DISCOURSE FRAMEWORK™

A memorable, practical guide to Don Folden Sr.'s proprietary method for restoring dignity, reducing escalation, and leading people back toward real dialogue.

"We don't have to agree to be human. Dignity is the ultimate de-escalator."

DON FOLDEN SR. - THE TRUTH CONDUCTOR™

THE 5 PILLAR FRAMEWORK

ACTION GUIDE

## INSIDE THIS GUIDE

### THE 5 PILLARS OF CIVIL DISCOURSE™ AND HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER

- Conversation reset tools for digital dialogue, conflict, discipleship, and leadership.
- A real-world practice plan to help people stop hating each other because they disagree.
- A premium, give-away PDF you can use before the full course, keynote, or certification offer.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

The page this matches frames the movement around dignity, lived experience, and a teachable architecture for dialogue. This PDF now lives in that same visual world.

WHAT THIS FRAMEWORK IS REALLY FOR

# BUILT FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE, NOT ABSTRACT THEORY

The live design concept positions The Truth Conductor™ as a movement for dialogue. This guide carries that same posture: practical, urgent, and grounded in the human cost of division.

## WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Most people enter disagreement trying to defend, persuade, or win. This framework reverses that instinct. It helps people pause, listen beneath the opinion, ask better questions, regulate themselves, and protect dialogue instead of destroying it.

01

### 6 YEARS OF PROOF

Refined through public work, high-pressure moments, and the lived realities of division.

02

### THE CORE PROBLEM

Ideological hostility, reflexive defensiveness, and the erosion of basic human regard.

03

### THE INTENDED RESULT

Human dignity preserved, hostility reduced, and conversations kept open long enough to matter.

## THE 5-PILLAR SEQUENCE

Dignity anchors the human worth of the other person. Listening interrupts your urge to counterattack. Curiosity searches for the story under the stance. Discipline keeps you from escalating. Dialogue pursues connection instead of conquest.

## THE MISSION

**“STOP HATING EACH OTHER BECAUSE YOU DISAGREE” IS MORE THAN A SLOGAN.**

It is the moral and practical challenge at the center of this movement.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read it once for the big picture. Read it again beside your next hard conversation. Then use the practice page as your cue sheet.

### WHERE IT HELPS

Teams, families, churches, schools, communities, leadership rooms, public forums, and everyday conflict.

### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Not winning. Not instant agreement. Success means the room stays human and the conversation stays open.

# THE FIVE PILLARS OF CIVIL DISCOURSE™

These pillars are not random tips. They are a repeatable architecture. Used together, they move a conversation from hostility toward human connection.

01

## DIGNITY

Every person, even in conflict, retains worth. The first task is to protect that worth before you protect your argument.

USE IT TO SEPARATE THE HUMAN BEING FROM THE POSITION THEY HOLD.

02

## LISTENING

Understanding must happen before responding. Listening is the discipline of giving real attention before forming your counterpoint.

USE IT TO SILENCE THE INNER REBUTTAL AND RECEIVE WHAT IS ACTUALLY BEING SAID.

03

## CURIOSITY

Curiosity is the bridge between assumption and understanding. It moves you from accusation toward discovery.

USE IT TO ASK WHAT SHAPED THE BELIEF, NOT MERELY WHAT THE BELIEF IS.

04

## DISCIPLINE

Disciplined dialogue protects the conversation when pressure rises. It keeps you steady when emotions pull the room off course.

USE IT TO PAUSE, REGULATE YOUR TONE, AND REFUSE THE BAIT OF ESCALATION.

05

## DIALOGUE

Dialogue chooses exchange over attack. The goal is not conquest. The goal is human connection strong enough to hold disagreement.

USE IT TO KEEP THE RELATIONSHIP MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING DECLARED RIGHT.

### STEP 1

Anchor dignity first

### STEP 2

Listen before reacting

### STEP 3

Ask curious questions

### STEP 4

Discipline the response

### STEP 5

Dialogue for connection

# A REAL-WORLD CONVERSATION RESET YOU CAN USE TODAY

This page turns the framework into a simple conversation sequence you can carry into real disagreement without sounding scripted or performative.

## THE 5-STEP RESET

- 1 Begin with dignity.**  
Decide before you speak that the other person will not be treated as less human because of disagreement.
- 2 Listen without loading your response.**  
Let them finish. Hear the emotional weight under the words before you prepare your rebuttal.
- 3 Ask one curiosity question.**  
Choose a question that opens the person rather than traps them: "What makes that important to you?"
- 4 Use discipline when tension rises.**  
Lower your volume. Unclench your face. If you need a pause, take one without surrendering the relationship.
- 5 Close in dialogue, not conquest.**  
You do not need to force agreement. End with honesty, clarity, and respect strong enough to leave the door open.

## SELF-AUDIT

- I protected the dignity of the other person even while disagreeing.
- I listened without building my counterargument while they were speaking.
- I asked at least one curiosity question instead of making an assumption.
- I noticed when my tone, speed, or body language was escalating pressure.
- I pursued understanding and preserved dignity, not just personal victory.

## CONDUCTOR CUES

### WHAT THE ROOM DOES NOT NEED

"Let me show you why you're wrong."

### WHAT YOU NEED CLARITY

"Help me understand what you most need me to hear."

### HOW TO REFRAME A TRIGGER

"I see this differently, but I want to stay with your humanity while we talk about it."

### WHEN YOU NEED A RESET

"I want to respond well. Give me a second to come back steady."

### HOW YOU END THE CONVERSATION

"We may not agree, but I do not have to walk this conversation out with hatred."

## 7-DAY PRACTICE PLAN

- DAY 1 Dignity:** Before one disagreement today, quietly decide that the person will remain human to you.
- DAY 2 Listening:** Practice letting someone finish without interrupting or mentally defending yourself.
- DAY 3 Curiosity:** Ask one open question instead of making a conclusion about motive.
- DAY 4 Discipline:** Slow your pace and lower your volume in a moment that normally tightens you up.
- DAY 5 Dialogue:** End a hard conversation with clarity and respect, even without agreement.
- DAY 6 Reflection:** Write one sentence about which pillar feels hardest for you right now.
- DAY 7 Integration:** Repeat the pillar you most need and carry it into one real conversation.

PATHWAYS

# BRING THE FRAMEWORK INTO YOUR ORGANIZATION, COMMUNITY, OR PRACTICE

This guide is the beginning. The full experience can be delivered through speaking, workshops, curriculum, and facilitator development.

PATHWAY 01

## SPEAKING

Bring Don Folden Sr. to a keynote, workshop, panel, church conversation, or civic event focused on restoring dignity in divided spaces.

[BOOK A CONSULTATION](#)

PATHWAY 02

## CURRICULUM

The deeper training path includes a structured course, guided exercises, and a teachable learning experience built from the five pillars.

[JOIN THE WAITLIST](#)

PATHWAY 03

## CERTIFICATION

Develop facilitators who can carry the method into schools, ministries, communities, and organizations with integrity and consistency.

[INQUIRE ABOUT CERTIFICATION](#)

## STOP HATING EACH OTHER BECAUSE YOU DISAGREE.

The Civil Discourse Framework™ exists to protect human dignity when ideas collide. This action guide is designed to help readers practice the method immediately and take the next step toward deeper engagement.

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AVAILABLE FOR

Speaking, workshops, leadership development, and facilitator pathway planning.

LOCATION

Washington, DC.  
Available globally.