



## **WEXFactor Discussion Guide: Facilitating Your Own *Leading Conversation***

### ***What is “WEXFactor” and How Can You Use It?***

Especially at a time when we find ourselves struggling to talk to one another across differences, we offer you a tool that seeks to support and empower anyone seeking to have meaningful conversations with content that is both robust and accessible.

Beginning in January 2024, The Wexner Foundation launched a new publication called “WEXFactor: Leading Conversations,” that features **curated and graphically designed transcripts that model lively, rigorous, and respectful conversations about pressing topics relevant to exercising creative, transformative, and joyful Jewish leadership**. Each original conversation took place in a zoom room that brought together four Wexner alumni who all bear unique expertise on the given topic but bring different perspectives as lay leaders, professional Jewish leaders, and leaders in the Israeli public sector.

Now, you can use their lively dialogue to host your own Leading Conversation by gathering your own group of interested people and leading them in a probing and respectful exploration of any of these important current challenges and opportunities facing Jewish life:

**WEXFactor # 1: [Antisemitism](#)**

**WEXFactor # 2: [Pluralism](#)**

**WEXFactor # 3: [Navigating the Tension between Legacies & Start-ups](#)**

**WEXFactor # 4: [The Cost of Jewish Living](#)**

**WEXFactor # 5: [Gender Equity](#)**

**WEXFactor # 6: [Talent Pipeline Crisis](#)**

For example, you can use each WEXFactor issue as a resource and tool across your settings to:

- spur rich conversation at staff across agencies and organizations
- offer rich content for study circles and adult learning for educators who want to generate and nurture multi-vocal perspectives in deep, thoughtful thinking that is both grounded and nuanced
- shape and lead sermon discussions and as sources for divrei Torah
- facilitate and surface differing views among lay leaders at board meetings
- generate lively and reflective conversation around shabbat tables, any other contexts you know and can imagine...

You can choose to use as much or as little of the optional Discussion Guide we offer below to help lead your conversations. We hope you find them as stimulating and generative as we have!



## WEXFactor Discussion Guide

### *Organizing the Gathering*



Step 1: Select a WEXFactor topic that you believe is important and relevant to address with a group of people:

**WEXFactor # 1:** [Antisemitism](#)

**WEXFactor # 2:** [Pluralism](#)

**WEXFactor # 3:** [Navigating the Tension between Legacies & Start-ups](#)

**WEXFactor # 4:** [The Cost of Jewish Living](#)

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**WEXFactor # 6:** [Talent Pipeline Crisis](#)



Step 2:

Identify someone to facilitate – it could be you or someone else – who can choose to work with the prompts in the Guide below, adding to/adapting them in ways that will be relevant for the group, and facilitate an interactive, participatory discussion that emphasizes active listening.



Step 3:

Identify a group (at least 4 and up to about 15 people) in your setting who are interested in exploring current and diverse experiences and understandings around the topic you have selected.

Once your group is identified and accepted your invitation, email them the WEXFactor issue selected for them to read in advance.

*ProTip:* To build interest, investment, and to personalize the conversation, in advance, you might also invite each participant to bring a quote or artifact that captures something problematic or hopeful about the topic for them personally.

**Note:** Feel free to reach out to any of the original WEXFactor participants using their emails provided to explore any questions, clarifications, ideas, etc, with them. They are all happy to engage in conversation with you by email, over zoom, or in person where possible!



Step 4: Let us know how it went!

After the discussion, send us a note at: [tzolkowicz@wexner.net](mailto:tzolkowicz@wexner.net) to share highlights, insights, observations, questions or other feedback about the content and process of your conversation. Let us know what you learned and if you have any suggestions!



## *Leading the Conversation*

**Estimated time:** 45 min – ~1hr 15 min

**Recommended group size:** approximately 4-15

**Roles:** Facilitator(s)

(you may wish to assign a note-taker and a separate timekeeper as well)

**Space:** Can be in-person, online, or hybrid

**Optional Prompts with suggested timing:** facilitator should make choices before and during facilitation about what to include, and lead the conversation based on size, time, and desired focus...

1. [~5-7 minutes] Opening round: Facilitator welcomes everyone, introduces themselves, and expresses the purpose of the conversation and why this group is gathering. They can then invite each participant to introduce themselves by sharing:
  - a) Their name and choose one other piece of information they deem relevant to share. If you invited them to bring an artifact or quote in advance, they could share it here and explain its meaning as part of introducing themselves.
  - b) Share **one word** that sums up for them the overall state of that topic in the local, national, or global community (they can choose perch from which they are observing).

Facilitator might explore aloud:

*What might we notice already about our various experiences of this topic?  
Any similarities, differences?*

2. [~5-10 min] Ask: *How do you personally experience this issue in your work/life?*” Facilitator summarizes themes from responses. Invites others to add any other themes.
3. [~5-10 min] Ask: *“What is something one of the original WEXFactor participants said that you identify/agree with? Or something that you disagree with/that did not resonate for you? How so?”*
4. [~5-10 min] Ask: *What were among some of the more promising solutions, strategies, visions you heard raised in the WEXFactor conversation? What makes them feel promising for you and how might you build on those ideas and move towards them in your setting?*
5. [~5-10 min] Ask: *What facts, ideas, perspectives do you want to add to the conversation that you noticed were not surfaced in the WEXFactor conversation?*
6. [~ 3-5 min] Facilitator invites group to help summarize key ideas raised. Pause to reflect: *What did you learn, relearn, or unlearn about the topic, yourself, others, or the Jewish community?*
7. [~5-10 min] Concluding reflections: Facilitator invites everyone to share any new insight, question, and/or action item the discussion raised for them. Is one other person or group they wish they could share their learning with? How/why so?

*How did it go? We want to hear!*

Send us a note at: [tzolkowicz@wexner.net](mailto:tzolkowicz@wexner.net)

to share your experience of using WEXFactor to lead your conversation.