

# PRE-TALK SURVEY:

[bit.ly/eips2019](https://bit.ly/eips2019)



# USING AI TO SUPPORT CIVIL DISCOURSE IN THE CLASSROOM: A VALUE-CENTERED APPROACH

Carnegie  
Mellon  
University



# SURVEY RESULTS

1. In general, civil discourse is getting \_\_\_\_\_
2. In my classroom, civil discourse is getting \_\_\_\_\_
3. Technology has a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on civil discourse.

# THE STATE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

59% find it **stressful** and **frustrating** to discuss politics online (Duggan & Smith, 2016)

Maeve Duggan and Aaron Smith. The political environment on social media. Pew Research Center, 2016

Interested? Email: [ndiana@cmu.edu](mailto:ndiana@cmu.edu)



Compared to other places where people discuss politics, social media discussions are:

Less respectful

Less civil

Less focused on policy

Less informative

Angrier

Less likely to come to a resolution

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Compared to other places where people discuss politics, social media discussions are:

Less respectful

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Less likely to come to a resolution = **UNPRODUCTIVE**

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# Why is Civil Discourse so unproductive?

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A photograph of Daniel Kahneman, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored checkered shirt. He is sitting on a dark, tufted leather sofa. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some architectural elements like a window with blinds.

# SYSTEM 1

Fast, Automatic

$2+2=?$

# SYSTEM 2

Slow, Deliberate

$53-17=?$



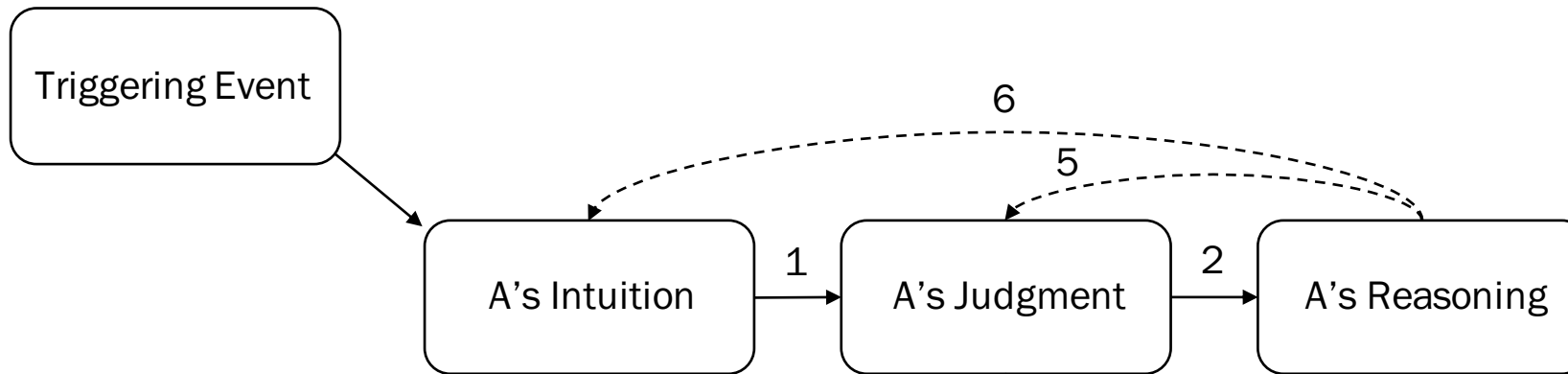
# MORAL FOUNDATIONS THEORY



**Sam secretly voted against his wife  
in a local beauty pageant.**



# SOCIAL INTUITIONIST MODEL



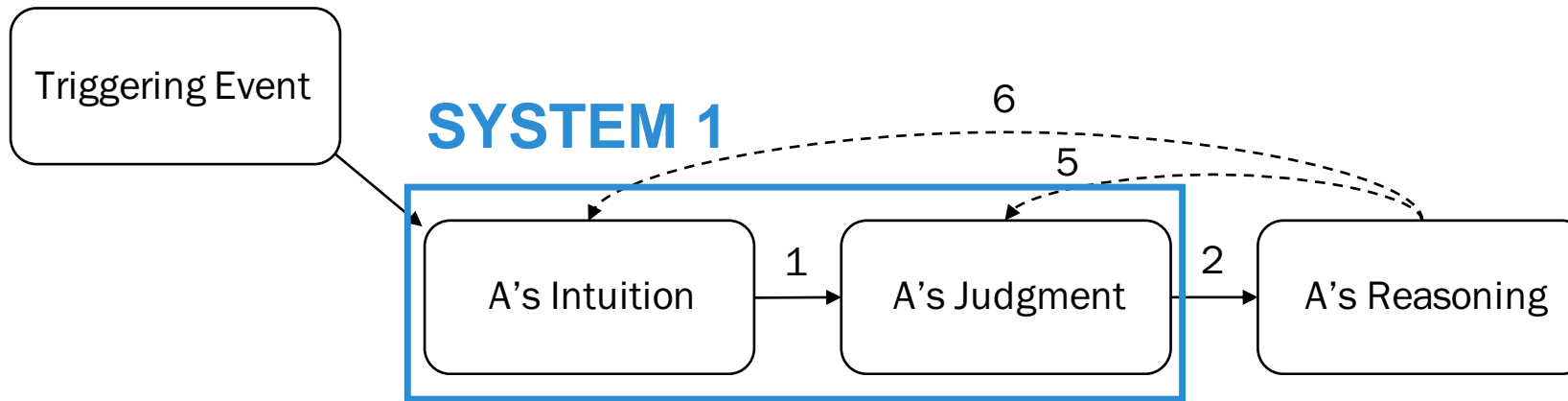
Four Main Links:

- 1) Intuitive Judgment
- 2) Post hoc Reasoning
- 3) Reasoned persuasion
- 4) Social Persuasion

Two rarely used links:

- 5) Reasoned judgment
- 6) Private reflection

# SOCIAL INTUITIONIST MODEL



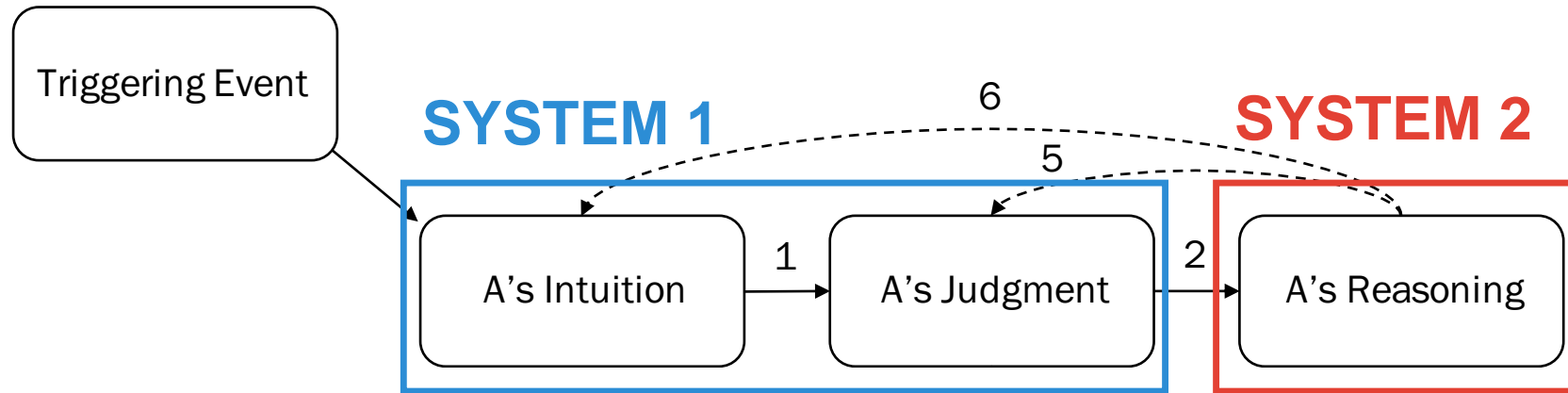
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# SOCIAL INTUITIONIST MODEL



"Wow, that internet argument completely changed my fundamental belief system," said no one, ever.

your  cards  
someecards.com





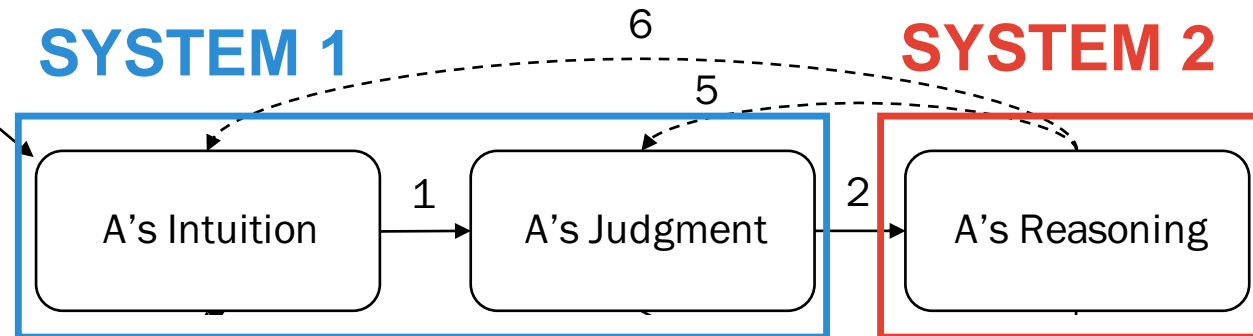
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Triggering Event

**SYSTEM 1**

**SYSTEM 2**



## Foundation

## Related Concepts

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## Foundation

## Related Concepts

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Care & Harm

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kindness, gentleness, and nurturance

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justice, rights, and autonomy

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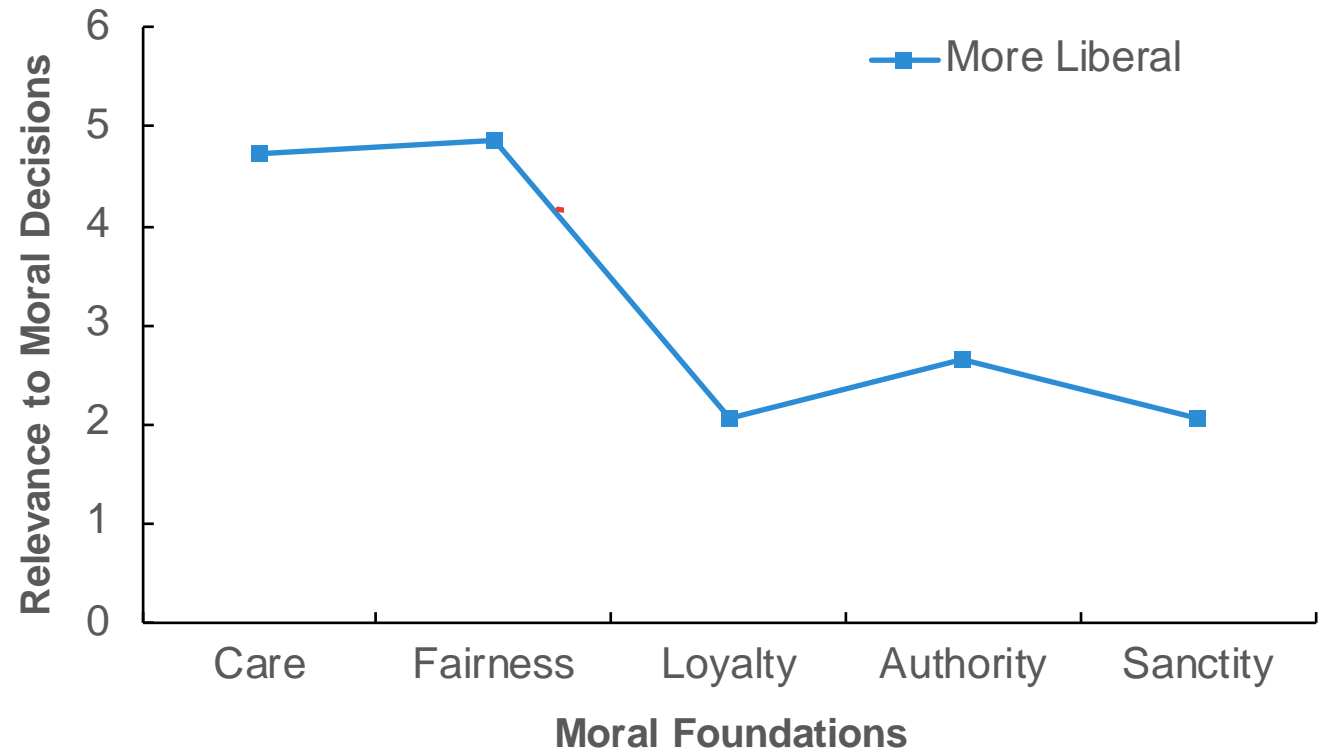
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Sanctity & Degradation

disgust, contamination, purity, and holiness



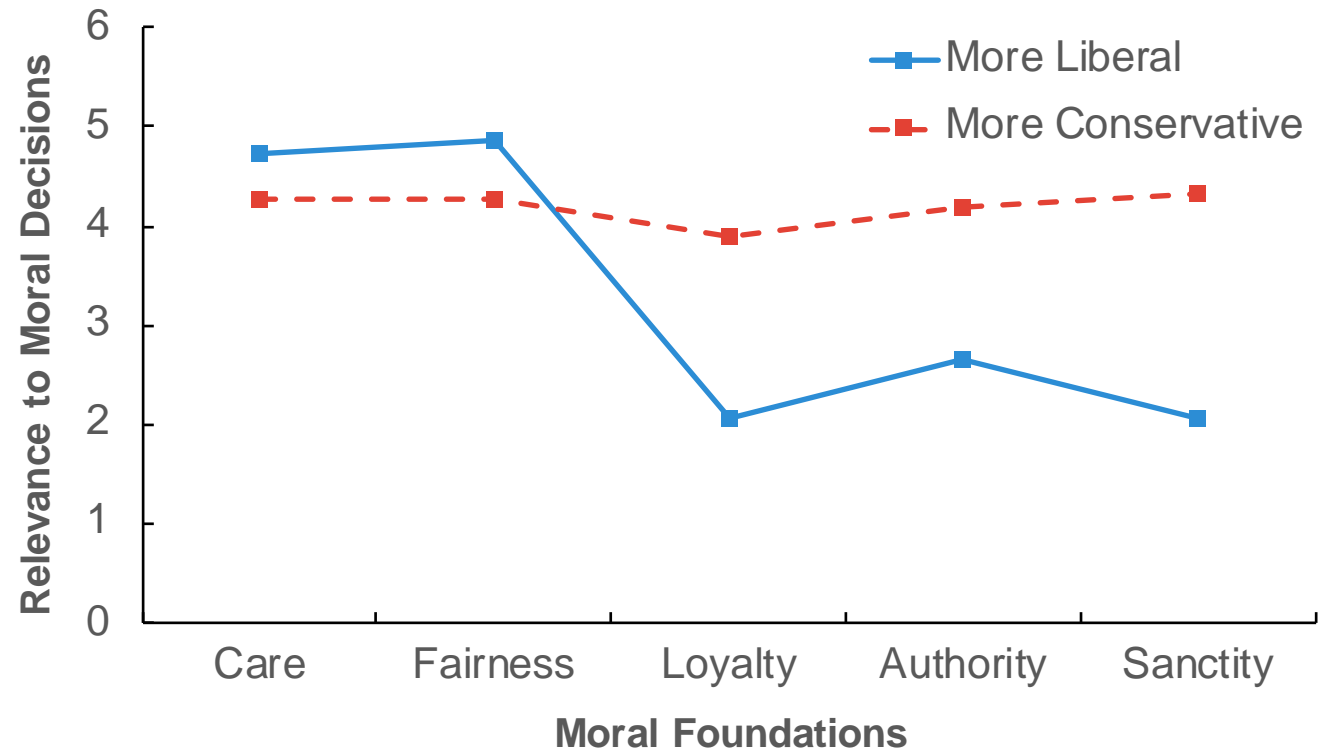
# MORAL FOUNDATIONS THEORY



Haidt, 2001

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# MORAL FOUNDATIONS THEORY



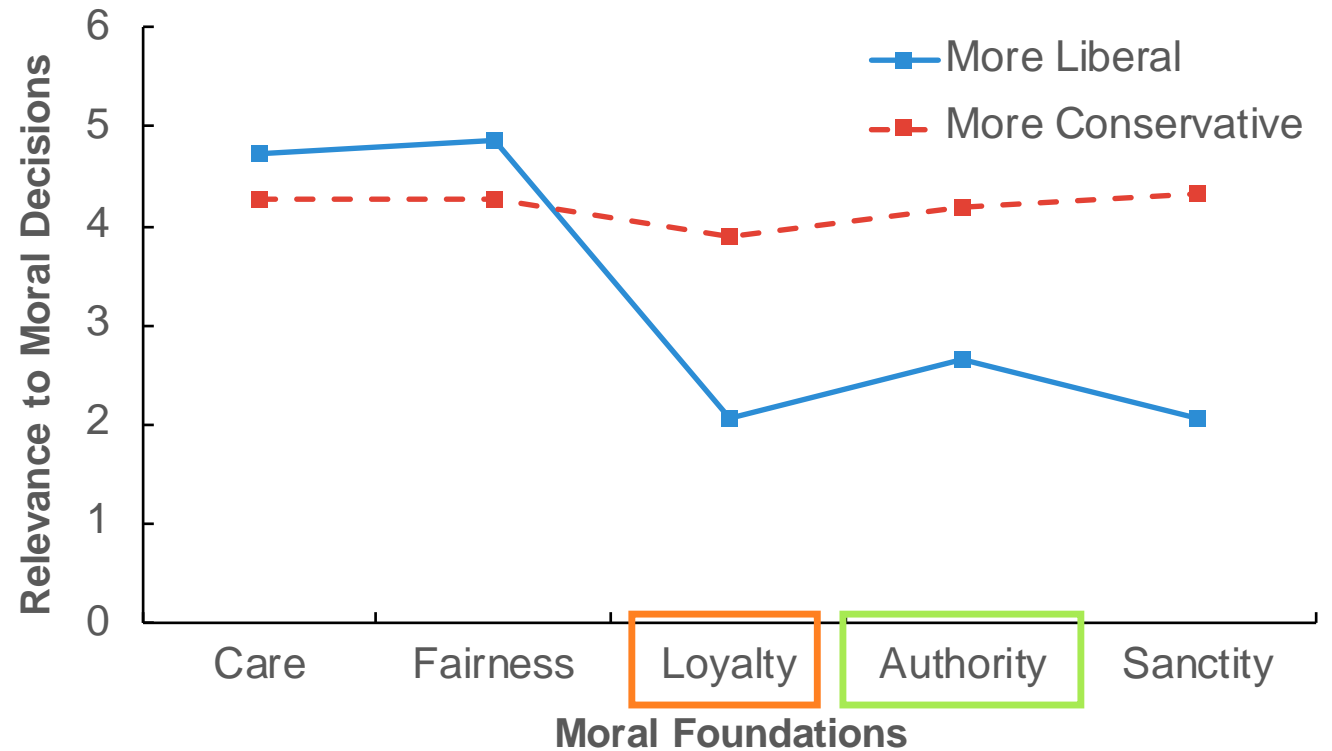
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**BUILDING A WALL WILL VIOLATE THE  
RIGHTS OF MILLIONS OF ILLEGALS.**

Andy's Memes

**IT'S NOT JUST OUR COUNTRY, IT'S  
THEIR COUNTRY, TOO !**



JOE BIDEN · Published 8 hours ago

# Hunter Biden on new wife he married after 6 days, matching 'shalom' tattoos

Their wedding at Melissa's apartment six days later was so hastily thrown together that neither had their families in attendance and their wedding photos were taken by a friend on his cellphone.

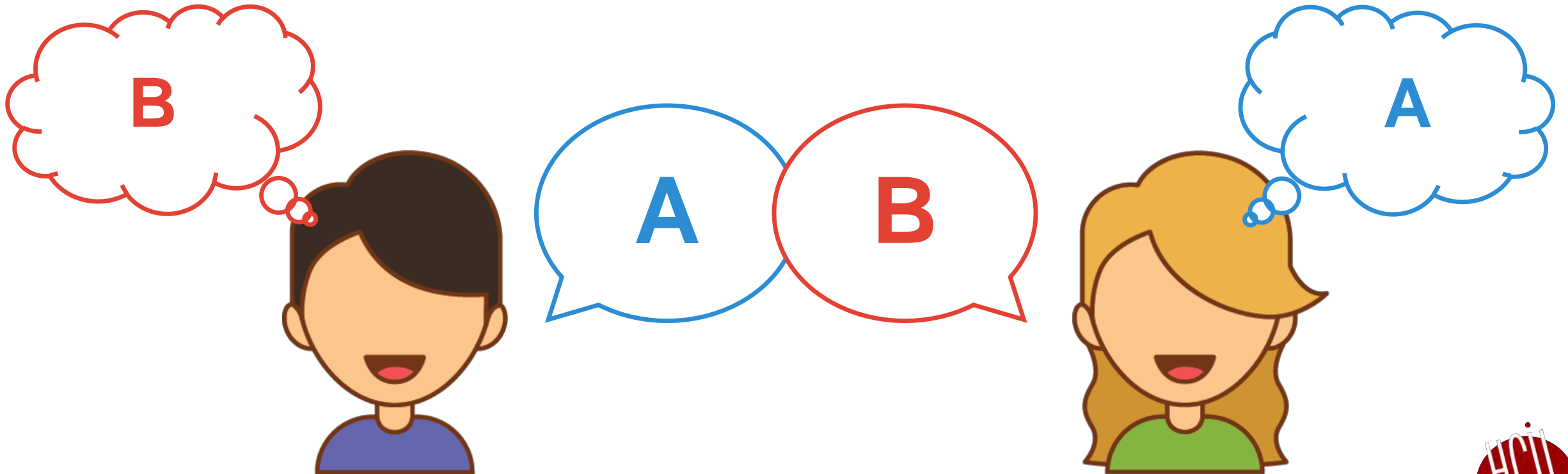
Biden, who said he's still in the "honeymoon phase" of his marriage, said he's come clean with Melissa about his rocky past that includes his yearslong struggle with sobriety, getting kicked out of the Navy Reserve and dating his dead brother's wife.

# How can we make Civil Discourse more productive?



# PERSPECTIVE TAKING

How well can you put yourselves in someone else's shoes



**PERSPECTIVE  
TAKING  
SPEAKING  
TO VALUES**

**A**

**B**

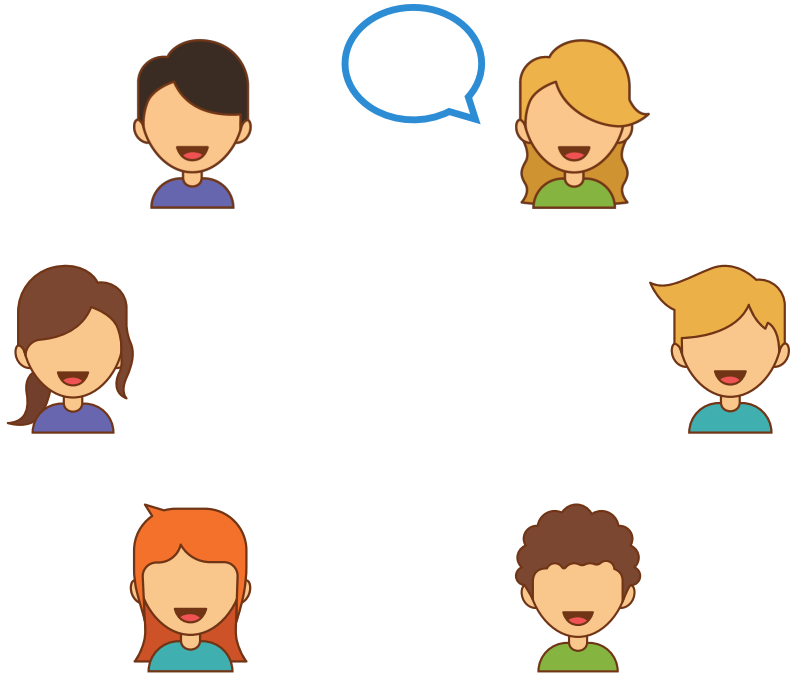
**FINDING  
COMMON  
GROUND  
IDENTIFYING  
VALUES**

PERSPECTIVE  
TAKING



CIVICS CLASSROOM

## PERSPECTIVE TAKING



**CIVICS CLASSROOM**

$$A = \frac{1}{2}bh \quad A = \frac{1}{2}bh$$



**MATH CLASSROOM**

# OUR SOLUTION

**No technology will ever match the value of a real classroom discussion**

We want to give students **individualized practice** on **fundamental civil discourse skills** that support those **real-world discussions**, both in the classroom and **in their life**.



# OUR SOLUTION

**If you want to get better at hitting homeruns:**

Play 500 games of baseball

**1500 hours (62.5 days straight)**

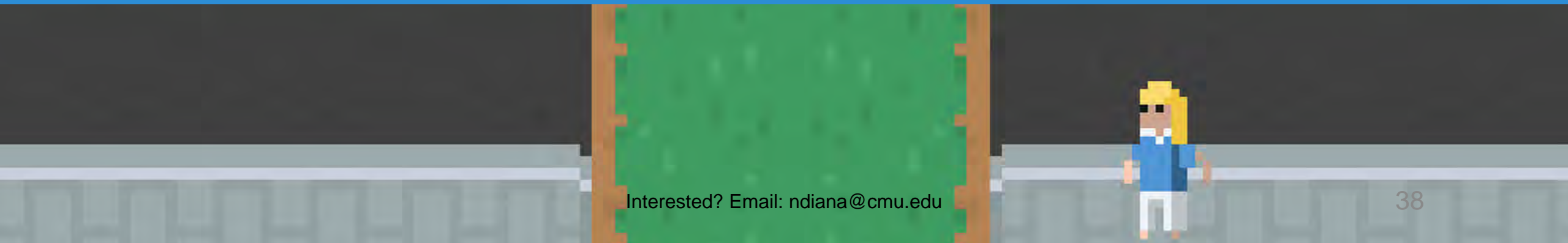
Go to the batting cage and hit 500 baseballs

**Just over an hour**

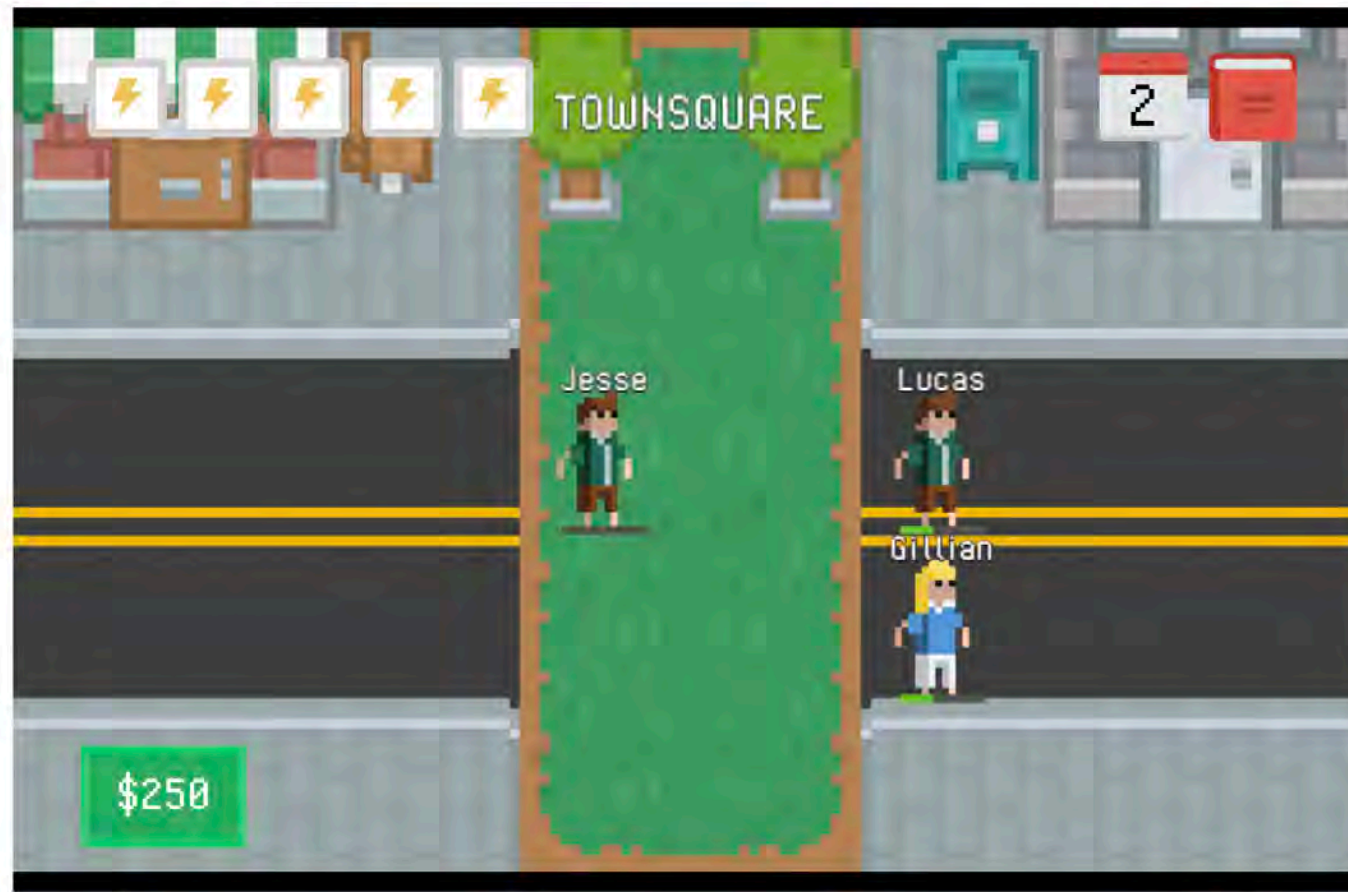




# Persuasion Invasion



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### Confirm Understanding



See if your guessed value is correct.

Energy: 1      Cost: \$0

### Just Ask



Reveal a TOWNSPERSON's BELIEF

Energy: 2      Cost: \$0

### Listen



Reduces tribalism and sometimes reveals a belief.

Energy: 1      Cost: \$0

### Gossip



Learn some INTEL but increase tribalism for a random TOWNSPERSON.

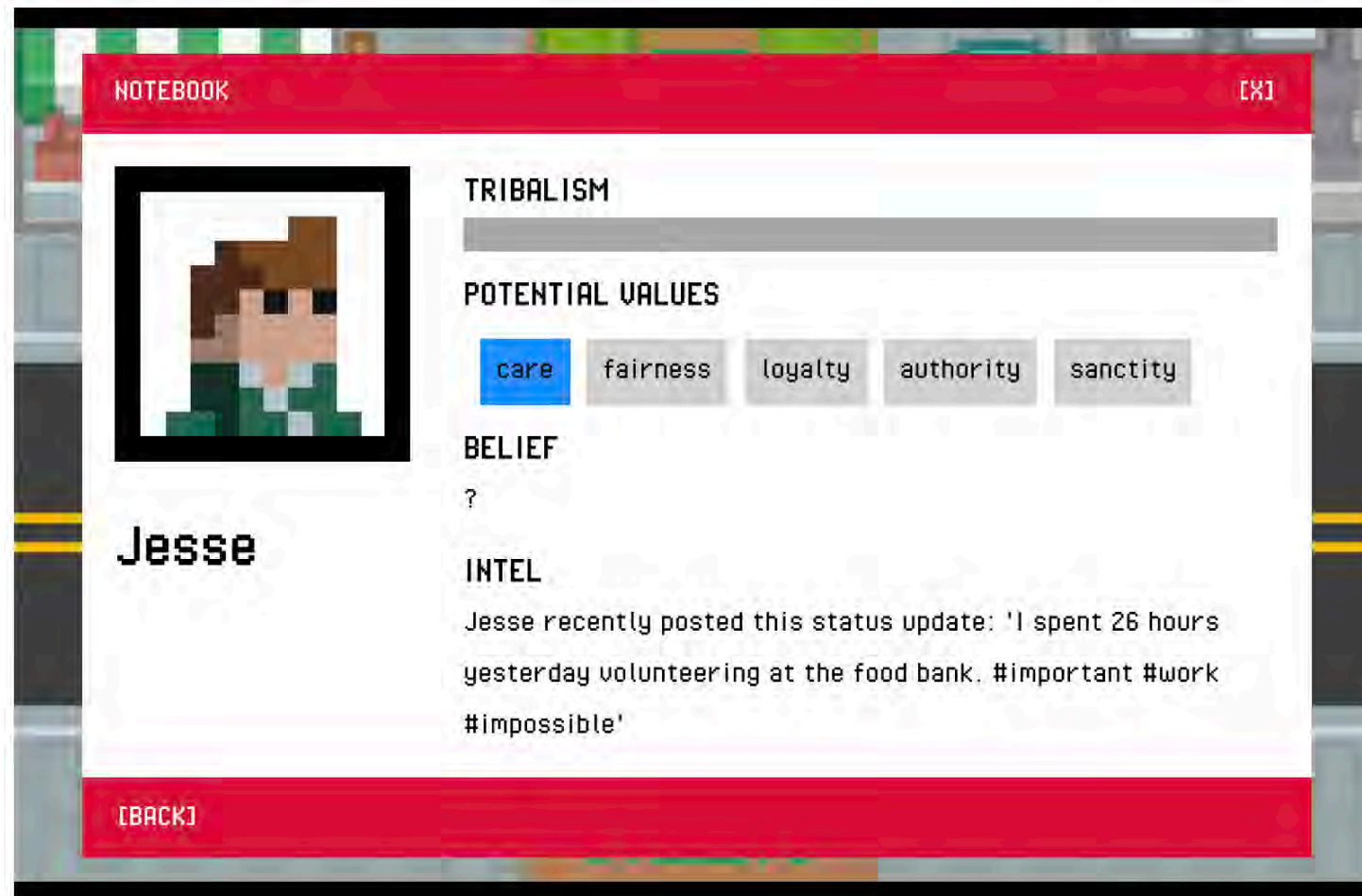
Energy: 1      Cost: \$0

### Point of Agreement



Reduces 2x tribalism if this is a TOWNSPERSON's first interaction.

Energy: 2      Cost: \$0



Choose the statement that will be most persuasive to Jesse:

- > "Eliminating the football team would ruin the soul of our kids."
- > "Football teaches skills like leadership and determination. It does more good than harm."
- > "I played football. My dad played football. His dad played football."

[CANCEL]

# FOCUS ON CIVIC SKILLS

Scaffolded, Individualized Practice on:

Perspective Taking

Identifying shared values

Finding common ground



Standard - 5.2.12.B

**Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.**

Standard - 5.2.9.D

Analyze **citizens'** roles in the political process toward the attainment of goals for individual and public good.

Standard - 5.2.9.B

Analyze strategies used to resolve conflicts in society and **government**.

Standard - 5.1.12.F

Evaluate the role of **nationalism** in uniting and dividing **citizens**.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Skill Mastery

Track performance on each subskill and **predict** what skills they need **more practice** on.

## Measuring Bias

Compare student values to text values to **measure and predict bias** in the evaluation of political arguments.

# WE'RE LOOKING FOR PARTNERS!

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