

## Poster Challenge: Meet Me Halfway

### How are you planning to commemorate Independence Day this year?

Millions of Americans are planning to recognize the achievements that the United States of America has made over the last couple of centuries. For some, that recognition will come in the form of traditional celebration. For others, this year will look very different.

### What statement would you like to send to your community?

It is customary to put an American flag outside one's home on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, take the Poster Challenge and decorate a large poster that captures the message you want to send to your community. Hang it outside your front door and make your statement public.



### How do you feel about celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup> and how do you express that feeling?

In order to determine the statement you want to make, try to understand the spectrum of opinions that exists by practicing the exercise below. Two extreme positions have been filled out for you on the next page. Complete the remaining positions in the blank boxes which each represent a move towards a more moderate approach, in an attempt to hear, understand, and empathize with the various positions – even those you don't agree with.

1

What is your initial inclination for how to spend the holiday?  
How might your neighbor, or someone who has a differing opinion from you, want to celebrate?

2

Try and put yourself in the shoes of someone who might argue a different position to you. Keep in mind the articles, posts, clips, and other media you may have come across that capture the tension around this year's holiday.

3

Identify the range of perspectives and emotions that surface as you take steps towards a middle ground between the perspectives. While it may seem uncomfortable, once you pass the center, try to articulate opinions that don't immediately resonate with you.

4

Once you've plotted the various positions, decide which stance captures the way you plan to mark the Fourth of July this year. **This message should be the subject of your poster.**

Achieving independence as the free United States of America was one of the most momentous and happiest days in our history, and today I will party like it's 1776!



I don't celebrate July 4th because we haven't lived up to the values of Independence Day. I am ashamed our society doesn't afford people basic rights and freedoms. My way to mark July 4th is to protest for equality and change!

Tradition

Reform

