

# the conversation project

## Hosting and Organizing College/Campus Events Overview Sheet

The Conversation Project is a national campaign dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for health care through the end-of-life. Their goal is that everyone's wishes for care will be understood and respected. The Conversation Project (TCP) is for all of us, even those who are in college. The reality is that some people die before they should and college students frequently deal with the deaths of loved ones — at any given time, 22 to 30 percent of college undergraduates are in the first twelve months of grieving the death of a family member or friend.<sup>1</sup> The death of friends or peers can cause college students to reflect on what they might want for their own care through the end-of-life. TCP events can be extremely successful on college campuses to inspire students to start thinking about health care wishes through the end-of-life, early and often. To support student leaders, or others who want to host a TCP event on their campus, TCP has provided sample event materials.

Organizing an event about end-of-life care can be hard! To help make planning and executing on your event a little easier, The Conversation Project has provided example documents and resources. For these sessions, TCP has considered the primary goal of getting students to select a health care proxy, a secondary goal of getting students to express own wishes, and a third goal of having students address these questions with their parents or grandparents. These resources have been designed for college-students, but they could also be applied to events with young adults. These resources are:

1. **Tip Sheet** — For student leaders, this list provides tips or points to consider in planning an event on their campus.
2. **Discussion Questions** — This provides sample discussion questions for student events, with answers or resources for the facilitator.
3. **Slide Templates** — We encourage you to make your presentation your own! If you are planning to use slides, TCP has provided a set of standard slides with resources, questions, and links to videos that may be useful in planning your presentation.
4. **End-of-Event Evaluation** — Demonstrating the effectiveness of your event and learning from the participants is an important part of workshop facilitation! For student leaders or facilitators, TCP has provided a sample end-of-event evaluation for your participants to fill out.
5. **Evaluation Collection Template** — For showing the aggregate results and responses from your event, TCP has provided an excel tool for synthesizing responses by question.
6. **Additional resources**, are available to support you! These include:
  - i. [The Conversation Starter Guide](#) to help you prepare to share your wishes with your loved ones.
  - ii. [Choosing a Health Care Proxy & Being a Health Care Proxy Guides](#). In addition to having the conversation, it's important to choose a health care proxy – the person who will make decisions about your medical care if you become unable to make them for yourself. These guide offers facts and tips necessary to make sound decisions about choosing, and being, a health care proxy.

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<sup>1</sup> Balk, D. E. (2008). Grieving: 22 to 30 percent of all college students. In Servaty-Seib, H. L., & Taub, D. J. (Eds.). (2008). *Assisting bereaved college students* (pp. 5-14). San Francisco: Jossey Bass.

- iii. Facilitation resources. If you are new to facilitation, one helpful resource is [Unlocking the Magic of Facilitation](#) to help build your skills at facilitating group discussions.
- iv. [Coaching the Conversation guide](#) to help facilitators prepare for facilitating these group conversations.
- v. A [blog](#) by Tufts University graduate, Isabel Merrin on her experience in running TCP workshops on her campus and [her TEDx Talk](#) on why it's important to talk about death with college students.

Each group and event is different! We encourage you to adapt and adopt the college event materials so that they work best for your group!