

let's have a

The title 'FELLA TALK' is written in a bold, green, hand-drawn font. The letters have thick outlines and are surrounded by colorful confetti (blue, orange, red) and green brushstroke-like lines. Below the word 'TALK' is a thick, green, horizontal brushstroke.

FELLA TALK

a guide on forming your own
microcommunity group activities

by kenny and YOU!

an intro to fella talkin

welcome! you probably yinked this booklet because you're trying to organize an event, and that's great! you cleared the first step of getting people together - being the one to step up. good job, pat yourself on the back!



so, at this point, you might be asking,

“what is a fella talk?”

at its essence, it is:

- a collaborative unwinding experience
- a time to stop thinking
- a moment for fun :)



i place a large emphasis on **FUN** by the way. a strained or stressful fella talk goes against the spirit of the talks.

a fella's purpose

a fella talk is like a picnic. something you invite a small group of friends to, stake out a place to hold, and spend a time doing things that aren't important **together**.



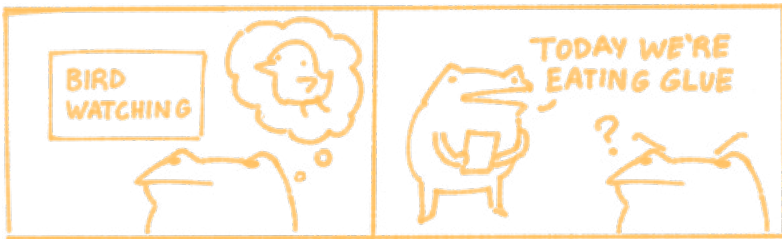
i'm not saying that you can't have focused moments at a fella talk - in fact, i encourage it! fella talks are a perfect way to flow out of a long day or week of work to just

RELAX

most importantly, fella talks are held to get people together. people, especially students, have complicated schedules that lead to few opportunities to hang out. by creating regular and structured meetings, you can carve out time in the daily tedium of life for some **FUN FELLA TALKING!**

what's your purpose?

before you start grabbin' fellas, find out why you're grabbin' them. a **clearly defined purpose** [ⓐ] helps to find an identity for your meets lets your fellas expect what's to come. without one, you're gathering people for no reason, leaving meets disorganized and your fellas frustrated from not knowing what's happening.



Make your purpose clear so your guests don't feel confused

my (**not yours**) fella talks combine these **core values**

- my friends are too busy to meet
- print is fun and more people should try it
- strong critique comes from close friends

note that i'm **NOT multitasking**. these values join to make the main idea of "how do i make a space for my friends to get the strong critique that they need and try out print?" a **guiding question** like this can make sure you stay on track when planning your fella talk.

what's your form?

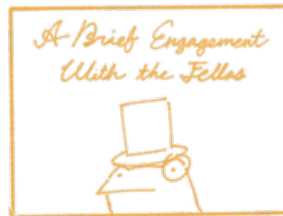
with a purpose now in mind, you can now start to mold the shape of your fella talks.

tone

what's the mood or vibe at your talk? i encourage fella talks to be light-hearted compared to business meetings, but use any tone you'd like. the tone works with your purpose to **influence the presentation** of your event from it's advertising to **host energy**.



primes for
casual play



primes for
formality

activity

how you will fulfill your purpose. choose whatever you think fellas would be interested in. 'nuff said.

norms

any special rules to set for your talks? asking your fellas for their opinions helps feel **included as an equal** [ⓑ] of the group.

fella meeting grounds

to have a meet, you need to actually have a space to meet. you'd might think that anywhere works, but a space influences how people feel during an event.

all venues have connotations associated with them [Ⓢ]. classrooms are a place for study, meeting rooms are for serious business, etc. these locations play a role in your meeting's tone by giving fellas an expectation on how to act. just like how you wouldn't want to discuss taxes at a pool party, you don't want to have a casual get together in a doctor's office. choose your venue wisely!

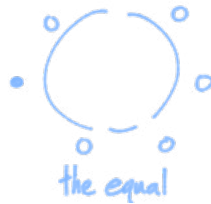
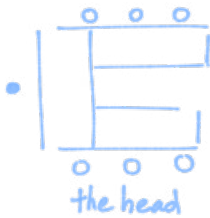


a world for your fellas

in your venue, you have the task of creating a pocket universe for your fellas, separating them from the outside world to focus on your group. returning to the picnic analogy, this would be the picnic blanket that **keeps your fellas in and other people out**.

think about seating arrangements. do you want to take a lead position? sit at the head of a table. do you want people to be equals? try a circle formation so everyone can see each other easily.

• *host ofella*



make sure everything is all set and ready before your fellas arrive. a disorganized host trickles down into a disorganized event, leaving your fellas confused.

extra tip! closed off rooms with no natural lighting feel extra depressing. they are generally not advised unless you want serious and private discussion.

you are IMPORTANT! (somewhat)

that's right you are! (again somewhat) as a host, you are the one who brought your fellas together and provide the structure to interact with each other. in turn, your fellas will meet the needs that you set out to meet with your gathering.

you might feel like you're wasting their time with your silly event, but they signed up! they're already interested in meeting so don't sweat it, **believe in YOU!**



just remember that **you are not the be-all and end-all** [Ⓐ] of your talk. your host role is to make sure the meet follows your guiding question and welcomes fellas to engage. use your host power wisely - you are not the glue keeping the group from falling apart. you're a magnet that attracts your fellas to each other [Ⓑ].



your HOST ENERGY

what is the **YOU** that you will bring to your event?
this is another instance where you can **reinforce your event's tone**. how you present yourself feeds down into how your fellas feel. will you be chill? uptight? aloof? you don't have to pick just one stance either - mix it up to help section events in your talk!

consider your position among your fellas. are you the leader or equals? i find that curated groups prefer equality since everyone's on the same page and doesn't need hand-holding, while random groups need a bit more guidance from an authority figure.



Guests can find fun without your direct action, but be there to guide them

make sure that your intentions don't overshadow your fellas. again, **talking with your fellas**[ⓑ] to form a mutual understanding is the key to a good fella talk.

curating your fella squad

now that you've planned your meet's idea and hyped yourself up, it's time to pick your fella cast! you might want to include everybody you can, but consider who is beneficial to the group.



SMALL - 6 or less

- intimate group
- requires attention
- deeper discussion

BIG - 12 or more

- more inclusive
- split attention
- longer discussions

both have their benefits, but I vouch for smaller groups that contrast large class experiences. big groups need tend to need more handling which can draw the fun out of running casual fella talks.

with that said, **pick people who align with your guiding question** [©]. gather fellas you're close with for deeper experiences. find random fellas if you want to make friends friends over a shared interest. just remember to **say no** to some people. **if everyone is invited, then no one is** [©].

fishin' up the fellas

how will you invite your fellas? if it's possible, i recommend physical invitations at first - there's something special about holding something physical that's made for you. it adds to the hype by giving your fellas a piece of the fella talk before it even happens. **reinforce your tone** (drill this into your head) with language, fonts, graphics - even the paper you choose can influence. remember, **the event has started before your fellas have even arrived** [Ⓞ]!

ways to contact people outside fella talks

EMAIL: formal, associated with business, accessible but distant, stiff and corporate

INSTAGRAM: casual, publicly accessible, most people use it, contact at any time, chill vibes

SPEECH/INVITE: semi-intimate, only in specific areas that you're used to seeing each other

TEXT/CALL: intimate, have to share it, contact at any time, usually used for relatives and close friends

arrival of the fellas

by now, your fellas should be marchin' their way to your meeting. great! good job! thumbs up! pat yourself again, you deserve it :)

with all the fellas here, it's important you start strong and **DO NOT START WITH LOGISTICS** [Ⓐ]. i don't care - boring talk on scheduling or structure will tarnish the first reaction of your fellas. save that for later! instead, get your fellas **HYPED UP!** use your host energy to start your meets memorably and set your desired tone.

but eventually, you will have to get to that discussion of timing. i found that my fellas prefer a pre-written agenda over a running timer. the timer forces someone (usually the host) to become solely responsible for staying on track and leaves everyone else stressed for time. on the other hand, an agenda is accessible to everyone and **makes the whole group accountable** [Ⓑ]. use the agenda to provide a structure for your meets, and then draft around what your fellas bring.

fella archetypes

some interesting characters may appear at your fella talks. keep in mind that fellas have the potential to shift between these states across the meeting. different amounts of each of these archetypes can have a major impact on the group dynamic.



TALKERS - EXTROVERTS

- spits out many good points
- often talks over others
- bread and butter of conversation



THINKERS - INTROVERTS

- chimes in with deep thought
- often stays quiet
- sparks new ideas in conversation



BOBS[®] - PASSIVE ANTAGONISTS

- diverts attention away
- divides the group's energy
- stalls out conversations



CHUMPS - ACTIVE ANTAGONISTS

- they just suck - group distraction
- can be inside or outside forces
- stops conversations

fella engagement

armed with the knowledge of fella archetypes, you might start to notice talkers and thinkers among your fellas. each is important to the group, but it's common to find that the talkers are talkin' and the thinkers stay sat thinking. this isn't necessarily a bad thing - some people are just quiet - but some need help entering a discussion.

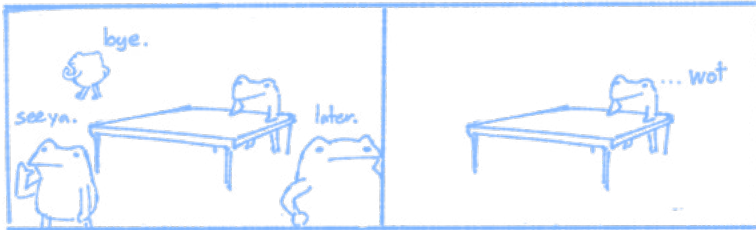
try and create spaces for thinkers to open up.

as the host, use your host power to reset the talk and allow anybody to pick it back up, or you can go to the direct approach of asking the thinker directly.

alternatively, create "**highlight moments** [®]" that give focus on a fella. carving time at my talks lets anyone have their moment as they pull the first print of their stamp after they finish carving it. another example is my ULTIMATE ICEBREAKERS, silly little questions given out that anyone could use to break a conversation gap and offer another **chance to shift discussion to a new person.**

wrapping it up

your fella talk is almost done, but don't relax yet! you need to **end off with a BANG** [Ⓐ]. endings need to be memorable, just like your opening. for one last time, reinforce your tone - stick to your bit 'till the very end!



Try to plan for sudden departures. They may result in an unsatisfying ending.

while a proper send-off is preferred, sometimes your fellas have to dip early. having an **easy/early out** helps greatly - fellas who want to continue can stick around for longer, while others have the space to leave

at my own fella talks, i (**dramatically**) gave out stampbooks. if someone had to leave, i could send them off with a little book stamping ritual. this got the group's attention, breaking our focus to say goodbye before returning to action. the stampbook also kept fellas invested in the group [Ⓑ], eager to fill it up. try making your own **sendoff rituals** for your fellas!

tales from a fella

YIPPEE! you did it! you're free! (until your next fella talk) give yourself one more pat on the back because you deserve it. you might be done with your first talk, but remember to keep holdin' them, **consistency is key** [Ⓟ] for fostering your group of fellas.

big time example tippy tips from me, your fella

CRITIQUE - remember to set the tone that **critique is supposed to be helpful**. this keeps presenters from feeling down about their work when receiving crit and reminds critics not to be too harsh with their advice

CARVING - people love carving and i mean **they REALLY like carving**. once people started, they were absolutely hooked and didn't want to leave. at the next meet, fellas immediately started working on their past carving, even before everyone arrived. so yeah, stamp block carving is fun.

signing off,

kenny

thank yous

a few shout-outs to some notable fellas

cat

for talking with me about fellas all semester

avery, nhu, salma, chan, abraham, colin

for being my FELLAS

henry

for telling me about his crit clubs

gabby

for helping me with experimental fella talks

carla, nhu, salma

for letting me yap to you about fella philosophy

miscellaneous fellas

for being interested in fella TALKS

fella readings

- Ⓐ The Art of Gathering - Priya Parker
- Ⓑ Community: The Structure of Belonging - Peter Block
- Ⓒ Microsolidarity - www.microsolidarity.cc

thanks for reading this booklet!

read more about fella talk at kennycly.com/fellatalk



hey dude, this aint
a manga. flip this
sucker over to see
the cover.