

## Harwood Debate Tool

Rich Harwood's book *The Work of Hope* finds that the endless acrimony, division and noise of our politics and public life leaves many Americans feeling like they live in the Tower of Babel. Before the debate, take a minute to fill in the following:

***My aspirations for my community are:***

During the debate, look at the 4 questions below and see if the candidates are talking about what it'll take to move communities forward and achieve your aspirations, or if they are building the Tower of Babel ever higher.

### 4 Essential Questions to Ask Yourself

- ① Do the candidates talk about the role of community and our obligation to one another, or talk just about the role and size of government?
- ② Do the candidates talk about how Americans must come together and get things done in our communities, or talk only about what they will do to solve problems for us?
- ③ Do the candidates talk about the hard steps required to get the country moving on a new path forward, or do they promise quick fixes and instant gratification?
- ④ Do the candidates help us restore our belief in ourselves, or do they contribute to more noise, acrimony and division?

#### ***Other Ways to Use these Questions***

1. Ask friends these questions during the commercials at your debate watch party.
2. After the debate bring the questions to the watercooler, or share them with that Uncle who forwards you nasty emails and use it to change the conversation from acrimony and attacks to what it'll take to move communities forward.
3. Post these questions to Twitter or Facebook to start a different kind of online debate. #workofhope