

What is a House Meeting?

An in-person gathering of 8-12 people, usually lasting 60-90 minutes, with the purpose of building or deepening public relationships and establishing a common vision for action together.

Why do House Meetings?

- **To build trust and relationships**
Moving LEE from a list to a team
Strengthening our networks to turn out an education constituency
- **To identify leaders who can help build the movement**
Continuing to identify new LEE who want to work together
Making progress toward building power to act for educational equity.
- **To surface issues that are important in our community**
Identifying common interests and passions
Identifying issue areas for potential research and action
- **To establish a common understanding of how the group can work together.**

Whom to invite to a first LEE house meeting?

- LEE members who are not yet familiar with our new incarnation.
- LEE members who have diverse constituencies, both in terms of their networks among TFA alumni and in terms of their networks in other communities.

General Format of Introductory House Meeting:

1. **Introduction and Context:** “When LEE was created in 2007, it was mostly a website designed to share individual leadership opportunities with our members. But if we want to make a real impact on Educational Equity, we need to be a whole lot more. This year, LEE has launched a strategy to support our members in connecting with other LEE members in the region to make an impact through collective action. This is new, different, and exciting, and we have invited you here tonight to talk about it. But first we want to take the time to get to know each other and hear each others stories. We will then engage in a conversation about the similarities we hear, and then talk about next steps to reach even more LEE members so we can share with them this new vision and build the power of organized people we need to accomplish effective public action.”
2. **Rounds Question 1:** “What is the story you tell to illustrate why you are so committed to educational equity?” (Host models a well-crafted 2 minute story, and asks each member to keep their story to two minutes).
3. **Rounds Question 2:** “In your current role, what is an obstacle to educational equity that you would like to change? If you were sitting down with the policy-maker who had power to make this change, what story would you tell that explains why it is so important?”
4. **Discussion of themes**



5. **Conclusion/Next Steps:** “We’ve heard a lot of compelling stories this evening, and a lot of potential issues for action. In order to build the power we need to act on any of these, we need the engagement of all XXXX of our LEE members in this region, most of whom do not yet know this new vision. Our only way of engaging them is for you to reach out to them and organize a house meeting like this one. By the end of the year, LEE will convene a Strategy Team comprised of our members who have engaged the most other members, and have heard the stories shared in these house meetings. This Strategy Team will be in constant, close touch with our membership, and will begin to craft action campaigns targeted at the intersection of our members interests, the opportunity for impact on kids, and the political opportunity of the moment. At any given time, any of the stories we heard tonight might fall into this sweet spot. Our hope is to build an organization that can work on each of them in its time, and that having heard each others stories we will be there to support each other on a whole variety of different campaigns. We would like to be in a position to support our leaders moving into action by 2014. We can only get there with your leadership. Thank you for coming tonight, and for agreeing to host a house meeting like this one with the TFA core members and alumni you know.”

House Meeting Facilitation Tips

- Be on the lookout for talent and engagement among the participants.
- Don’t let anyone dominate the conversation (including yourself)
- Politely ask for permission to interrupt before the conversation starts, don’t be afraid to do so
- Get people to tell stories, not just voice complaints, opinions, or abstract issues.
- Encourage people to ask one another questions (e.g. what do you think of Mrs. Garcia’s story?).

After Your House Meeting

- Send thank you cards or emails to attendees.
- Set up individual meetings with the attendees who stood out the most.
- Follow up with those who agree to host house meetings, and offer to walk them through the planning process.
- Keep record of everyone who attended so you can follow up with them when LEE moves into an action phase.