



ISL Tea Talks FAQs

Updated Summer 2021

What is the Tea Talks Program?

Tea Talks is a monthly program through International Student Life that provides students the opportunity to learn and discuss global current events and culturally relevant topics in an intimate setting. There is typically a 15-20 minute presentation on a topic, and it is followed by small group discussion, activities, and reflection.

What is the purpose of Tea Talks?

The purpose of Tea Talks is to help students develop a broader global perspective by exposing them to global issues and international topics in an environment where they can engage and discuss amongst peers. The university strives to prepare students for full participation in the global 21st century society, and this program supports that aspect of the mission.

Who leads Tea Talks? Can I lead it with friends?

Students that are passionate or interested in a topic are encouraged to be Tea Talk facilitators. While ISL oversees the program and offers support to facilitators prior to the event, students facilitate the event and discussion. We recommend team-facilitating so that you can divide roles and responsibilities associated with facilitation (monitoring questions, presenting, time-keeping, etc.). Offering various perspectives and alternating between people who speak is also a way to be interactive and to maintain the attention of participants.

What skills will I gain from serving as a Tea Talks Facilitator?

Communication, leadership, collaboration, public speaking, (digital or live) event management/facilitation, etc. It is also a great addition to your resume.

What kind of support will I have in the Tea Talk planning process?

An ISL advisor will support your planning process. During meetings you will set goals, discuss facilitation techniques, practice, and have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. ISL will also promote the event on its social media platforms and coordinate event logistics (setting up the Zoom or making a space reservation on campus).

What topics have been led in the past? How should I pick a topic?

Students have led Tea Talks including:

- *Mental Health around the World & Cultural Competence and Mental Health (2 talks)*
- *The Crisis in Venezuela: A Student's Perspective*
- *Imposter Syndrome: Taking Your Place at the Table*
- *The Complex Role of the Daughter in Hispanic Families*
- *The Taboo of Domestic Violence in South Asian Cultures*
- *Perspectives from African Immigrant Students*



- *Discussion of South Korean Beauty Standards*
- *The Effects of COVID-19 & Quarantine on People of Color*
- *Exploring the Connection between East Asian Culture & Modernization*

Is there a global current event or cultural topic that is of interest to you? Is there a cause that you are passionate about and want to spread the word and discuss with other students? These are good places to start when brainstorming topics.

How will Tea Talks take place this year?

Facilitators will have the option of choosing between a digital Tea Talk and an in-person Tea Talk for the 2021-2022 academic year. Facilitators can work with the ISL advisor to pick a time and date for the virtual event. We will look for facilitators for the months of September, October, November, February, March, and April.

As a Tea Talks Facilitator, I agree to...

- Meet with an ISL advisor before the Tea Talk and maintain regular communication during the planning process
- Be prepared and professional for the Tea Talk and planning meetings
- Share the event with friends and organizations I am a part of and invite them to participate both verbally and on social media (if applicable)
- Take a short survey after the Tea Talk so that ISL can improve the facilitator learning experience

As an ISL Advisor, I agree to...

- Recruit Tea Talk facilitators
- Support facilitators in development of Tea Talk program design
- Set up the Zoom logistics or make space reservations
- Prepare marketing materials with ISL Communication Interns
- Promote Tea Talk on ISL social media outlets
- Provide Tea Talks welcome at beginning of the discussion
- Prepare an end-of-session survey to gather feedback



Testimonials & Advice from Former Tea Talk Facilitators

Why Tea Talks?



"I chose to do a Tea Talk because it was an amazing opportunity to share information and raise awareness about a topic very close to my heart. Personally, I didn't hear about Tea Talks until Ben Cecil brought up the idea when I showed interest in mental health awareness and how it's perceived in different cultures, especially the Filipino culture...The best part about leading a Tea Talk was witnessing firsthand how many people shared the same interest in the topic. Despite college being a large campus, everyone sitting in that room made it feel like we truly live in a small world." –**Ralph Dizon '21, "Mental Health around the World"**

"I saw an email of ISL asking students if they had any topic ideas for the Tea Talks and I saw it as an opportunity to keep spreading awareness of what is going on in my country, Venezuela...I decided to bring many Venezuelan students together to share our experience because even though we are all victims of our crisis, most of us experienced it in different ways...This gave me more experience in event planning, which is an aspect of my major I want to pursue. It was also the first time I organized a panel and that was different but exciting." –**Nicole Andreina Garcia Sanchez, '22**



Advice for Future Facilitators

"Make it a conversation. Don't simply make it a presentation. Have a discussion. Challenge yourself and the audience. Most importantly, be open-minded. You will learn more from the people sitting in that room than the research you conducted on your Tea Talk topic." –**Ralph Dizon '21, "Mental Health around the World"**

"Do a topic you are very passionate about. When people see your passion, they immediately want to listen to you...Go big into the advertisement, reach out to organizations that have to do with the topic so they can repost on social media or add in their newsletter." - **Nicole Andreina Garcia Sanchez, '22, "The Crisis in Venezuela"**

"To future tea talks facilitators, I'd say don't get so caught up in the logistics of creating a perfect presentation that you fail to make a personal connection to the topic that they are discussing." - **Bat'sé Smart, "Perspectives from African Immigrant Students"**

"To future Tea Talk facilitators, I hope you choose a topic that you are interested in, even if you do not know much about it! I personally was able to learn so much about a topic I thought I knew about and was able to gain a broader perspective by doing more research and talking about it with others" - **Jennifer Zhu, "Exploring the Connection between East Asian Culture and Modernization"**



Tea Talks Planning Guide

Please complete this page and send to sayre.weir@uga.edu at least 4 weeks prior to your event.

Working Tea Talk Title: _____

Tea Talk Facilitators: _____

Co-sponsoring Organization (if applicable): _____

Two Preferred Date & Times: _____

Do you prefer to host virtually or in person? _____

Short description of topic and how it relates to a global/international issue or cultural topic:

What knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes do I want the Tea Talk participants to deepen or develop by attending the Tea Talk? How will attending the Tea Talk impact the participants' learning experience and/or intercultural growth?

Potential discussion questions related to my topic:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ideas to creatively engage participants in either a digital or in-person environment:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Questions I have about the Tea Talk planning process: