



# Reading Group Discussion Guide

**I Love You But I Hate Your Politics**

**Jeanne Safer, Ph.D.**

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## General Book Questions:

1. Do you believe it's possible to have a thoughtful political conversation—NOT an argument—with someone close to you with whom you radically disagree? Why or why not? Have you ever done it? If so, what made it work?
2. Describe the worst fight over politics you ever had with somebody you cared about:
  - What caused it? What are your hot-button issues?
  - What compelled you to continue after you realized it was going nowhere?
  - How was it resolved (if it was resolved)—or is it still going on?
  - Were there serious consequences to your relationship? Did it end over politics?
  - Are you aware of any underlying psychological issues between you and this person that made it so painful?
  - What was your contribution to this fight?
  - If you had it to do over again, would you handle it differently?
3. Have you ever unfriended or been unfriended by someone close to you? Did it damage your relationship irreparably, or were you able to reconcile? If so, how?
4. Do you think it's possible to have an intimate relationship with a friend or lover with whom you seriously disagree about political issues? Are there any particular issues that you consider deal-breakers in a relationship? Have you made efforts to change someone's mind (e.g., giving the person articles or links to articles from your point of view). Did it work?
5. Have you ever been close to somebody from the other side of the aisle? If so, how do you handle political disagreements on issues like abortion, gun control, or the Trump presidency—do you discuss them, or avoid them?

6. Have you ever changed your mind about what a core value is based on how someone who politically disagrees with you treats you?
7. If your family is divided over politics, has this affected your relationships with them? If so, which family members do you have a problem with? Have you figured out a way to keep the peace, or is it still festering? Has it caused problems when you get together for holidays?

### **Book Specific Questions:**

1. What do you think of the way Anna Aksoy announced her change of political party on Facebook, rather than telling her husband Mehmet directly? Are people obligated to announce decisions like this to their mates directly?
2. Was Mark Halperin right to go along with his wife Phyllis's insistence that he only listen to Fox News in the basement? Should he have handled her demand differently? If you have a mate whose politics is different, how do you handle their listening or watching commentators that are anathema to you?
3. Was Diana Kennedy justified in criticizing her uncle David's politics on Facebook? Have you ever done anything similar—and if so, what was the outcome?
4. Several of the people in the book—including Christopher Drake with his mother and Meghan Black with her father—decided to intentionally avoid getting into fights with their relatives by not “rising to the bait.” What do you think of this strategy—have you ever tried it yourself?