Host An NPR Listening Party

Pick a story, gather friends and spark thoughtful conversation through a shared listening experience.
WHAT IS A LISTENING PARTY, ANYWAY?

A Listening Party gives you a fun reason to bring together friends (or strangers!) to dig into a topic you care about. Use one or more NPR stories as a starting point and let great audio storytelling give you and your crew the chance to take a break from screens, listen together, and go deeper with thoughtful discussion about ideas you might normally have the chance to talk about.

It's easy. All you have to do is:

• Chose a topic or theme you’ve been thinking about lately
• Pick a story (or selection of stories) on NPR.org or NPR One
• Gather friends in a cozy place
• Hit airplane mode, listen and discuss!

Show us how you #HostYourOwn #NPRListeningParty and together we can spread the mission of public radio for a more informed, engaged, and empathetic world.
**HOW TO GET STARTED**

1. **Start with a topic, choose a story.**

   What’s been on your mind lately? What ideas or topics have you been interested in or grappling with? What are you eager to discuss with other people? Let your curiosity be your compass. Once you’ve honed in on a topic, find a story on NPR or your local Member station about the topic. You can choose one longer piece, or pair a couple of shorter segments. Generally aim for no longer than 45 minutes. Stories with a bit of tension or controversy make for a more lively discussion.

2. **Pick a day and time.**

   Weekend brunch works great, as do weekday evenings. Consider other events happening in your community already and schedule around them so you don’t have to compete. We recommend carving out about 90 minutes for the whole event.
3. **Pick a venue.**

We recommend hosting at your house to keep things cozy and casual. But if you have other ideas or access to an intimate space, go for it! Ideally, aim to keep the group no larger than 20 people so that everyone gets a chance to speak.

4. **Send your invite.**

You can use email, Facebook, or whatever you like. Please include the NPR Generation Listen logo or feel free to use our invite graphic. Have fun with it! A day or two before the Listening Party, send your guests a reminder to be on time and include any key information about arriving to / parking at your home, etc.
5 Prep the space.

Coziness is key. You want people to settle in - kind of like watching a movie. Put out lots of pillows and blankets. Keep the lighting soft. If possible, arrange seating into a circle, which will help conversation flow. It’s a good idea to have a focal point for folks to settle their gaze on (it may feel strange at first to not be looking at a screen). We also recommend setting out paper and pens so people can take notes and/or doodle while they listen.

6 Mind the details.

Identify the device you plan to play the story from ahead of time. Make sure it’s fully charged and notifications are off. You may consider downloading the piece if your Internet is spotty. Make sure your speakers are powerful enough for everyone to hear with no problems. Oh, and stock up on some light snacks and drinks for folks to munch on.
QUICK CHECKLIST

☐ Set date + time
☐ Send invite
☐ Pre-listen to story
☐ Jot down a few discussion-starting questions
☐ Create a cozy feel where you’re hosting:
  ☐ Arrange seating in a circle if possible
  ☐ Pillows, blankets, comfy chairs
  ☐ Soft lighting
  ☐ Pre-download story or make sure you have solid Internet connection

☐ Turn off notifications on streaming device
☐ Set out some notepads and pens / markers
☐ Stock up on light snacks & beverages
☐ Know the room: are there some subject matter experts you can pass the ball to during the discussion?
☐ Snap some pics for the socials
☐ Be creative! Make your Listening Party uniquely yours
**5 Tips on How to Moderate a Conversation**

**with Guy Raz**

NPR’s Guy Raz is an award-winning journalist and host of NPR’s TED Radio Hour.

As a host and correspondent, he has interviewed and profiled more than 6,000 people that span the gamut from Jimmy Carter to Mark Zuckerberg to Taylor Swift. Suffice it to say, Guy is a true master of the art of opening people up. He was kind enough to share his top tips for moderating an incredible conversation.

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<tr>
<th>Tip</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Empathy. Empathy. Empathy. Be empathetic. Give something, get something. If you make yourself vulnerable, others will be willing to open up to you.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Be open and curious in your conversation.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Find moments of common experience whenever you can. (i.e. I like jazz! Me too!)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Acknowledge silences and awkward pauses.</td>
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#HostYourOwn

SEND AN INVITE
visit our website for more information

generationlisten.npr.org/listening-party

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