

## Finding Truth in Their Resistance

Instructions: Read the following dismissive responses. What can you acknowledge in their statement as part of your response?

1. "Your problem-solving approach is based on a false premise -- that politics is about solving problems. Politics is about power and who holds it. Your strategy will find few takers in the real world of hardball politics."

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2. "Can't fool me. You claim to be open to other points of view but you're actually using this strategy like a Trojan horse to advance your same old, tired liberal/conservative agenda under the guise of nonpartisanship. This horse is just as lame as the last one."

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3. "Most people would rather fight than fix a problem. They would rather feel right and righteous, even if their will is thwarted, than settle for a compromise that leaves them feeling they gave away what mattered most to them. Why should I give up what I believe in when I know I'm right?"

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4. "Politicians thrive on their differences. They create their identities and build their power bases by framing themselves as guardians of the good against the evil designs of their enemies. The last thing they want to do is "come reason together" with those whose opposition gives them their power."

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5. "Those aren't open questions. They're loaded with your own assumptions and presumed answers. You're not going to find anyone interested in answering our questions until you start questioning your own assumptions."

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*Here's how we acknowledged the truth in the previous statements:*

- 1. You're certainly right that politics as most see it today is almost exclusively about power and who wields it.*
- 2. I am a liberal/conservative and I know that my point of view will not (?) be the solution for all of us; I want to contribute my view into a larger conversation.*
- 3. I'm not suggesting that you should give up what you believe in. I agree that you should be the voice of what makes sense to you.*
- 4. I agree that many politicians gained a great deal in the past by defining themselves by their differences and declaring "I'm not Him!"*
- 5. Well, it's probably true that there are some assumptions hidden in there somewhere in my approach that I haven't uncovered yet. Can you help me see them?*