



RTCNYC Tool 12.2.2b
Facilitation Guide

This is a sample facilitation guide.

Outline for New School Panel
Wednesday, June 20th, 9:30-12:00

- 1. Welcome and Intros: 9:50 am**
 - a. Center for New York City Neighborhoods to do welcome.
 - b. Welcome:
 - i. Please turn to your neighbor, introduce yourself and share briefly why you came today.
 - ii. How many people here (raise your hand):
 1. How many people work with the government?
 2. How many folks are from the new school? How many are students?
 3. Focus on renters rights?
 4. Are fighting gentrification?
 5. Are fighting evictions?
 6. Don't live or work in NYC?
 - c. Introduce panelists using bios, and explain the format (we'll have time for Q&A after the panelists are done).

- 2. Panel Discussion: 10:10 am**
 - a. **NYC Context:**
 - i. **Why we fought for a right in NYC**
 1. Video 5 minutes
 2. Speaker 1: 5 minutes
 - a. Experience of the difference between a lawyer and pro se, not just personally but also what you see as a CASA leader
 3. Speaker 2: 5 min
 - a. In the coalition we say that evictions aren't about rent. They are about power, race and class. The NYT series on housing court did a pretty good job explaining how landlords use housing court as a weapon. Can you talk a bit about the role evictions play in gentrification in NYC and why we say evictions are about power and race?
 4. Speaker 3: 5 min



- a. As a tenant organizer, can you talk about the threat of retaliation and evictions and landlord harassment and power---what is that like in NYC and how did that motivate your members to fight for RTC?

ii. How We Won

1. Speaker 1 or 2: 5 min
 - a. The RTC victory in NYC is historic. It's both expensive and NYC is the center of the eviction crisis and the real estate lobby in the US. How did the coalition win this historic new right?
2. Speaker 3, 5 min
 - a. How does having a right affect your organizing work? RTC is already reducing evictions and filings--but you don't just see it as being about evictions. What are you, and the Coalition doing to use this right to build tenant power?

b. Lessons for other cities

10:45 am

- i. 10 min
 1. A lot of folks say that what we did in NYC isn't a model for other cities to adapt. NYC has a surplus, we're progressive, etc. In other cities folks say they need a pilot and/or are just pushing for increased legal services. And they same the same thing about SF, who just won a ballot initiative for RTC. But in Newark--you all are pushing for a law and we've collaborated a lot to share strategies and lessons. So, tell us a bit about why-- what is the landscape like in Newark? Why did you all decide to work on this campaign? Where are things now and what do you think the potential of having RTC is? What did you learn from NYC?
- ii. 5 min
 1. This question certainly came up in the NYC context--can you tell us about the decision to push for legislation and a right versus anything else?
 2. What would you tell other cities who are only working on pilots or increased funding, who aren't incorporating organizing or working on a law?
- iii. 5 min
 1. As a member of the coalition steering committee, can you talk about all of the work the coalition is doing to ensure that the implementation of the law is rooted in the principles of the coalition?
 2. Anything you want to add here about the organizing work?
- iv. 5min



1. So, in addition to all of the organizing we are doing to ensure the current law is implemented in a way that builds tenant power, some folks here might have heard that we announced RTC 2.0, which would make the current law even better. Can you explain what that is and why we are pushing these expansions?

3. Q&A

11:15 am

Potential Questions to Plant:

- a. A lot of people say evictions won't be solved by attorneys because the rent is just too high. How would you respond when people say that?
 - i. Organizing doesn't end. RTC is just one tool.
 - ii. When people say evictions are about rent, they really miss that it's about power. NYT article did a great job to show that it's about power.
- b. What are other examples of programs that we can learn from in terms of its implementation?
 - i. Super mindful that the criminal context isn't a model we want to replicate. We want it to be a tool to transform the system, not something that becomes a tool *within* the system.
 - ii. Also, when you think about other legal cases, they are generally initiated by the state as in criminal cases and family cases (state and family members), etc. but housing court is a place where private landlords use the court system and the laws, to displace people in order to make a profit. We think the right functions in a very different way in that system.
- c. Both Newark and New York have income limits on the right to an attorney, meaning that it's only available to folks who make under 200% of the poverty line (\$50,000 for family of 4). But San Francisco passed legislation without income restrictions. Can you talk about this a bit and why the NYC/Newark laws have income restrictions?

4. Closing Thoughts/Comments

11:50 am

- a. Ways to get involved! Sign up to volunteer, etc.

Potential Materials:

- Handouts:
 - Sign-In Sheet
 - FAQs
 - Postcards