

THE AGORA — One-Page Brief

An AI-generated political roundtable. Launching Thursday, June 11, 2026.

What it is

A twice-weekly political roundtable podcast in which all five panelists — a moderator and four commentators across the ideological spectrum — are AI characters. Three substantive issues plus a closing lightning round, all in about thirty minutes. Built for politically engaged listeners who want genuine multi-perspective argument rather than partisan reinforcement.

Five voices. Four issues. One republic.

What's distinctive

- **Genuine ideological multi-perspective, not a single editorial voice.** The panel spans from progressive to conservative; centrism is one chair at the table, not the table's verdict. Listeners cannot predict which panelist "wins" any given issue.
- **Real character craft.** Each panelist is an independently reasoning AI character with a distinct intellectual temperament and a signature rhetorical hook — Yogi-isms for the progressive, hip-hop and pop verse for the conservative, classic film for the moderate, historical sports analogies for the center-left pragmatist. Disciplined rules keep each character in their own lane and prevent the same flourish from repeating across recent episodes.
- **An AI "director" picks each turn.** For each beat of debate, all four panelists generate candidate responses in parallel; a separate director-role model call selects the one that makes for the best television, judged on ideological clash, rhetorical quality, and speaking-time balance. Roughly a third of beats become crosstalk, where a runner-up interrupts.
- **Two-stage fact verification.** Before the panel speaks, the facts behind each issue are researched and verified, and panelists are constrained to those facts. After generation, the full transcript is fact-checked against live sources and corrected before release. Pop-cultural attributions get their own verification pass.
- **Maximized news coverage.** Autonomous topic selection from the week's news, with deduplication ensuring consecutive episodes never rehash stories. Single-topic special episodes can ship within twenty-four hours of major breaking news.

The panel

- **Arthur Kline** — Moderator. Commanding, theatrical, dry.
- **Eli Navarro** — Progressive. Quick, sharp, morally engaged.
- **Nora Kessler** — Center-left pragmatic. Coalition-minded, policy-detail focused.
- **Grant Mercer** — Center-right moderate. Plain-spoken, institutionalist.
- **Sloane Barrett** — Conservative. Disciplined, dry, rhetorically rigorous.

Format

Twice weekly · Mondays and Thursdays at 5:00 AM ET · ~28-32 minutes · Cold open -> three substantive issues -> lightning round -> predictions -> sign-off. Signature musical stings mark each transition.

Production stack

Custom Python orchestrator (no third-party agent frameworks) · Anthropic Claude · Perplexity Agent API · ElevenLabs voice synthesis · human-supervised topic selection, fact-checking, and audio production.

Resources

- Trailer No. 1 (May 29) and Trailer No. 2 (forthcoming): theagora.fm/press
- Sample pilot episode (on request): press@theagora.fm
- "How The Agora Works" methodology: theagora.fm/how-it-works
- Full press kit: theagora.fm/press

Contact

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Built by an independent creator, a commercial real estate attorney by trade. All panelists are AI characters; none represents any real person, and any resemblance to specific commentators is incidental. Topic selection, fact verification, and editorial judgment are human-supervised. Not affiliated with any other media property.