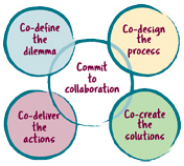
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PRACTICE CURIOSITY

A TOOL FOR ENQUIRY INTO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON AN ISSUE

Behaviour I'm anticipating

People advocating for their position on the situation or the problem rather than respectfully enquiring into others' knowledge.

Behaviour I really need

People seeking to challenge their own thinking about the situation or problem and expand their knowledge.

What you are trying to do here

- Understand divergent and different perspectives held by others in the group.
- What you are **really doing** here is allowing different perspectives to be heard, drawn out and more deeply explored.

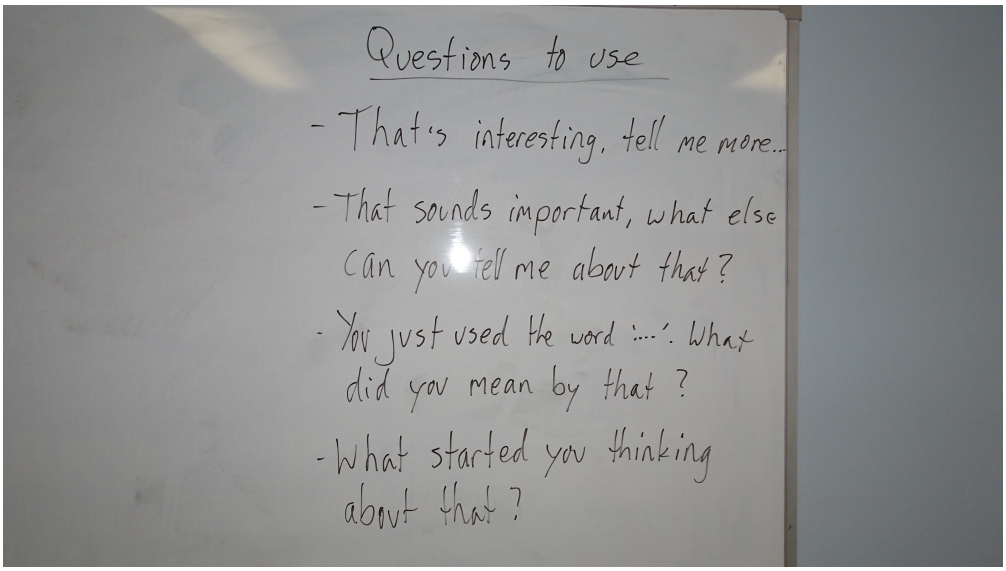
Preparation

- Draft a focus question e.g. "Given the topic that brings us all here, what matters most to you?"
- Write up some typical questions that demonstrate curiosity e.g.
  - That's interesting, tell me more.
  - That sounds important, what else can you tell me about it?
  - You just used the word …. What did you mean by that?
  - What started you thinking about that?
  - What implications might that have for what we're doing here?
  - Any other relevant question that might apply.
- Post ALL the questions to the wall, window or whiteboard so all can see.

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Instructions



1 Ask everyone to pair up with someone who holds divergent views and with whom they may strongly disagree.

2 Explain the purpose of this activity is to demonstrate genuine curiosity when listening to their partner.

3 Direct everyone's attention to the questions on the wall they can ask to draw more information from their partner.

4 One partner poses the focus question and listens carefully to the answer.

5 Encourage the listener to exhibit curiosity by using as many of the questions as possible.

6 The listener keeps asking questions for 2-3 minutes or until they run out of questions, or their partner runs out of answers.

7 Check in to see what each is learning.

8 Reverse roles and repeat steps 4-7.

9 Use the data gathered to support the rest of the meeting agenda

On-line tip, write the 'curiosity questions' in chat then use break-out function to pair people up. If not available, agree with group how they will talk in pairs eg by phone or Facetime etc before rejoining the meeting.

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