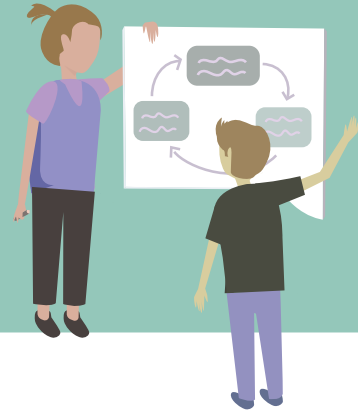


RESPONSE QUESTIONS



SKILLS

Questioning

LEARNING OUTCOME

Construct and ask questions that promote deeper learning about self and others and explore the topics of dialogue.

SKILLS OBJECTIVES

Participants are able to prompt respondents to go deeper into the dialogue by constructing questions that cannot be answered with 'yes or no'.

DESCRIPTION

Through group discussion, participants map conversations to develop strong response questions by creating a diagram that depicts communication flow.

TIME

30-45 minutes

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Response Questions (example)

Large pieces of paper

Markers/pens

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explain the definition of a 'response question' to the class:
A response question takes the dialogue deeper by asking open questions that cannot be answered with just a yes or no, are aligned to the topic, follow up on what was said, and promote a thread of conversation.
2. Share the example diagram on the *Response Questions* worksheet example to show the flow of using response questions. The line of questioning on the left of the diagram is not a good response question because it does not take the dialogue much further. The one on the right helps the dialogue to go deeper and in new directions.
3. Place participants into groups of three or four and ask them to start discussing a question, for example, "Which celebrations are important to me?" or "What actions have I taken to help my community?"
4. After each group has had a few minutes to discuss, ask them to create their own diagram together on a large piece of paper showing the initial question, some responses, and the response questions they can ask based on the conversation, revising any that may have already come up in their initial discussion.
5. Ask participants to return to their discussion about the topic and to use the worksheet to help them ask better response questions.

REFLECTION

Bring participants back together in the whole class and debrief the experience. Ask them to share some examples of questions they asked and why they think these were good response questions.

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Response Questions are better because:

- You have to listen carefully
- Questions respond to what is being said
- Dialogue flows – it is not ‘stop and start’
- Dialogue can grow

