

Mentor training conference
September 3-4, 2022
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Learning Exercise: Discussion on having a good group conversation

Directions:

1. Explain to the heads of men's/women's groups that the **point** of this exercise is to learn more about having good group conversation. It consists of 3 questions and maybe a fourth. This conversation will help our discussions when we talk about the sources and avert problems. The questions are simple and there are no specific answers. The questions build on one another. Use them as written.
2. **DO NOT** share all the questions with the group at once. The conversation will be more genuine and profitable if they are staying in the moment of each question, enjoying listening to others and sharing their answers.
3. Ask one question at a time.
4. If participants can't think of any answers, encourage them to build on someone else's answer. Or they could say, "I agree with ____."
5. The leader of the group can start and continue to participate. This is not an exercise the leader is doing TO the group. It is a group exercise for everyone's benefit, including the leader's.
6. Display the answers for all to see. This might help certain members to build on the other members' answers.
7. Take time with each question. Ask for more and more answers. Allowing time will help members who hold back. Some of the most important answers will be shared toward the end.
8. After question one, move to question two, repeating the same steps. Then go to question three. Again, the element of surprise with the questions is important.
9. After the third question, feel free to ask the fourth question.
10. The third question may be jarring for some. It is not accusatory but is a statement of a fact. Sometimes I can sabotage conversation for myself or the group. For example, by looking at my phone, falling asleep, being in a bad mood, interrupting another speaker, etc.
11. When you do this exercise with the heads of the men's and women's groups you may want to ask everyone what their takeaway was from having had this discussion.

Question 1: What does good participation in a discussion group look like?

Question 2: How do you participate well in a group discussion?

Question 3: How can you sabotage a group discussion knowingly or unknowingly?

Question 4 (optional): What are we going to do with this information we shared?

3 Questions for facilitating a good group discussion

Question 1-What does good participation in a discussion group look like?

Question 2: How do you participate well in a group discussion?

Question 3: How can you sabotage a group discussion knowingly or unknowingly?