

## HELPFUL QUESTIONS FOR DIALOGUE FACILITATION

Dialogue can be a helpful process to engage students in articulating their experiences and/or reactions to challenging situations. Dialogue, different from discussion, invites us to listen and hear each other's perceptions, experiences without judgement or intent to convince individuals of our viewpoint. Dialogue welcomes individuals into the conversation and it accepts differences.

Before we begin to engage in dialogue, we need to establish guidelines for dialogue to provide a safe space for the conversation to occur. Guidelines may entail the following:

- \* Confidentiality: "What's learned here, leaves here, what's shared here, stays here."
- \* Commitment to learn from each other.
- \* Commitment to not demean, devalue, or "put down" individuals.
- \* Commitment to trust that individuals are always doing the best they can.
- \* Commitment to monitor one's own and others' airtime – to be mindful of how long one is talking and to speak up when others are taking over the conversation.

Confirm with students is to listen

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### EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS-Probe basic knowledge

*What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_?*

*How does \_\_\_\_\_ make you feel?*

*What bothers/concerns/confuses you the most about \_\_\_\_\_?*

*What are some ways we might respond to \_\_\_\_\_?*

HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS-Pose a change in the facts or issues

*What if \_\_\_\_\_ were from a different \_\_\_\_\_ would that change things?*

*How might this dialogue be different if \_\_\_\_\_?*

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS-Probe motives or causes

*What brings you to say that?*

*What led you to that conclusion?*

PRIORITY QUESTIONS-Seek to identify the most important issue

*From all that we've talked about, what is the most important concept you see?*

*Considering the different ideas in the room, what do you see as the most critical issue?*

*What do you find yourself resonating with the most?*

*If you had to pick just one topic to continue talking about, what would it be?*

PROCESS QUESTION Elicits satisfaction/buy-in/interest levels

*What perspectives are missing from this dialogue?*

*Everyone has been \_\_\_\_\_ for a while, why?*

*How would you summarize this dialogue so far?*

*How might splitting into groups/pairs affect our discussion?*

ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS-Seek to apply concepts or principles to new or different situations

*What questions arise for you as you think about ?*

*How does this idea/contribution add to what has already been said?*

SUMMARY QUESTIONS=Elicit syntheses: what themes or lessons have emerged?

*If you had to pick two themes from this dialogue, what would they be?*

*What did you learn?*

*What remains unresolved? How can we better process this?*

*Based on our dialogue, what will you be thinking about after you leave?*

*This is what I've heard so far ... Does anyone have anything to correct or add?*

ACTION QUESTIONS-Call for a conclusion or action

*How can we use that information?*

*What does this new information say about our own actions/lives?*

*How will you do things differently as a result of this dialogue?*

*What are our next steps?*

*What kind of support do we need as we move forward?*

EVALUATIVE-QUESTION Gauge emotions, anxiety levels - what is going well or not

*Is there anything else you would like to talk about?*

*How are you feeling about this now?*

*What was a high point of the dialogue for you?*

*A low point?*

*What excited you? Disappointed you?*