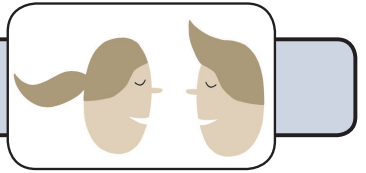


Focused Conversation Practice



Your small group will be facilitating a 15-minute Focused Conversation. You have until lunchtime to prepare that conversation. Each practice conversation will be followed by a short debrief and feedback, led by the trainer.

Each person should plan to act as a participant in the conversation during the moments that they are not acting as the facilitator.

Preparation

- Select your topic or stimulus (don't spend too long choosing – the point is to understand the method).
- Decide the Rational Aim and Experiential Aim.
- Brainstorm lots of questions, writing each question on a post-it.
- Choose the best questions to meet the Rational and Experiential Aims and put them in order.
- Aim for 8 to 12 questions all together, with some that you can leave out if necessary.
- Plan the opening and closing.
- Decide who will facilitate which parts of the conversation this afternoon.

Tips for making your conversation run smoothly

- Questions should be open; avoid “Yes or No” answers.
- Asking for more input from participants is great, but avoid just asking “why?”, because it can make people feel defensive.
- Questions should be clear, inviting answers at the appropriate level.
- Make sure you can answer the questions – if you can't then the participants probably won't be able to!
- If you want to help get everyone comfortable with speaking up, you can try going around the room to get answers from everyone for an easy-to-answer Objective level question.
- Have fun exploring the method & remember this is a learning environment!



Your manual can help!

Page 19 for Method Overview

Page 20 for Rational and Experiential Aims

Pages 21 -24 for coverage of each level

Pages 25 - 27 for extra useful preparation

Page 25 has tips for opening and closing

Pages 28 - 31 for sample questions.