

# Worksheet 2

## The Art of Q&A: Question Reframing Activity

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Ask the questions below. After each question, ask the students to consider:

- Why is it an unhelpful question? Is there any language that's unhelpful?
- Have a go at reframing the question in a way that's more likely to get an answer, try to avoid any of the RSVP points.

**1** Imagine asking this question to a Muslim:

**Don't you think it's irrational to follow books written hundreds of years ago by people who didn't understand science?**

**2** Imagine asking this question to a Christian:

**Why can't religious people be gay?**

**3** Imagine asking this question to an atheist:

**Why do militant atheists think that their belief in nothing has equal value to ancient beliefs in something?**

**4** Imagine asking this question to a religious person:

**Why is religion always causing wars?**

# RSVP? Recap

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Here's a reminder of the RSVP? Guidance to help you to ask more skillful questions:

**R**eally a Question?

**S**tereotypes & generalisations

**V**iews

**P**rovocative Language

**? Question**

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**R**eally a Question?

- Are you really asking a question or are you telling somebody what you think you already know?
- Have you already made up your mind without having any information / evidence to back-up your opinion?
- If you think you already know the answer to a question before you've asked it then you are probably making an assumption.
- *Example:* "Those shoes would be really uncomfortable to wear, wouldn't they be impossible to wear?"

**S**tereotypes & generalisations

- Does your question contain any stereotypes of generalisations that suggest that all people from certain groups / with certain identities are all the same / similar?
- Questions using words such as *all / never / always* can often be unhelpful when asking questions about different groups because people who are part of the same group are often very different from one another.
- *Example:* "Why do all girls want to wear heels?", or "Why do boys always wear trainers?"

## **V**iews

- Are you asking for the other person's view or are you just stating your own view?
- Sometimes when we start a question with "Don't you think...", we're actually saying what we think and often we're trying to get the other person to agree with us.
- *Example:* "Don't you think your shoes are a bit extreme / over the top / out-there / dramatic / show off-y?".

## **P**rovocative Language

- Provocative language means using words that get a reaction from somebody, usually a negative one.
- Does your question include any language that is not respectful / insulting / offensive / judgemental / provocative? For example, words such as: arrogant / stupid / extreme / fanatical / stupid / extremist / fundamentalist / childish / unreasonable / irrational etc.
- *Example:* "Why are your shoes so extreme / over the top / out-there / show-off-y / attention seeking?".

## **?** Question

- Does your question have any of the RSVP points in it (e.g. assumptions, stereotypes, generalisations, statements, provocative language)?
- If so, how can you reframe or rephrase it to remove this language so that you are asking a better question that is more likely to get a better answer?
- *Example:* "Why are your shoes always so over the top?" becomes "Why have you chosen to wear fluffy, fluorescent pink boots with a ten inch heel today?".