

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING FRAMEWORK (DU) QUICK REFERENCE

The Deepening Understanding Framework is meant to help understand and effectively participate in group discussions where individuals share and articulate their ideas and perspectives for the purpose of better understanding a topic personally and as a group. These stages show guiding questions and key behaviors with definitions, which are important in the discussions process.

PREPARATION STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What **questions** do I have about this **topic**?
- What **interests me**? What might others also be of **interest to others**?
- How should I **prepare** for a **discussion** with this group?

Key Behaviors Gathering Information Self Awareness

IDENTIFICATION STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What might I **suggest** is an interesting **question** about the topic?
- What do **others** in the group seem to be **interested** in?
- What seems to be the **group's** most compelling **interest**?

Key Behaviors Active Listening Asking Pertinent Questions Offering a View Relevant Responding

SHARING AND ARTICULATION STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Have I been **clear** about what may **thoughts** are?
- Do I **understand** what **others** are saying? What can I **appreciate** or **agree** with?
- What **assumptions** do others seem to be making with which I might **disagree**?

Key Behaviors Acknowledging Articulating a View Challenging Checking Interpretations

DISCOVERY STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How are the various **ideas** offered by different people **related** to each other?
- What are the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of the various **ideas**?
- What are some **key features** in the range of views we seem to have on the topic?

Key Behaviors Critiquing Making Connections and Distinctions Representing Multiple Views

EMERGING UNDERSTANDING STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What am I **learning** from this **discussion**?
- Has my **own take** on this topic **changed** in any way?
- What **insights**, if any, have we come to so far as group?
- What else might we want to **explore** as a group?

Key Behaviors Reconsidering Own Views Representing Multiple Views Synthesizing

EVALUATION STAGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What have I **learned** from this **discussion**?
- How has my thinking and discussion abilities improved as a result of the group?
- What could I do in the next group to initiate, contribute and learn?

Key Behaviors Evaluating Group Process Reconsidering Own Views

11/4/2016

DESCRIPTIONS OF BEHAVIOR IN DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING

Acknowledging

Appreciatively notes positive qualities of an offered perspective acknowledged to be different from own.

Active Listening

Fully attends to the content and depth of emotion in another's speech *and offers a response* that charitably leaves room for the speaker's clarification of his or her intent.

Articulating a View

Explains how key ideas in a view work together and what makes these ideas credible or useful in some context.

Asking Pertinent Question

Actively asks questions related to the discussion in order to identify and clarify issues.

Challenging

Respectfully asks for justification, examples, or evidence that supports an offered view.

Checking Interpretations

Conveys an interpretation of what a person just said in order to confirm or clarify the intent of what was communicated and, in doing so, avoids any expression of approval or disapproval.

Critiquing

Reviews one or more perspectives and evaluates their worth relative to their scope, consistency, meaningfulness, usefulness, and/or quality of supporting evidence.

Evaluating Group Process

Makes judgments about the quality of the group process related to how effectively the topic was addressed and whether all group members were able to contribute by assessing the quality of the interaction of group member.

Gathering Information

Compiling preliminary data, evidence, or other material necessary to be informed and organized for the group task.

Making Connections/Distinctions

Identifies how one idea or stated point is similar to or different from another.

Offering a View

Presents an idea related to a topic or issue and conveys that the idea is well grounded and worth group consideration.

Reconsidering One's Own Views (Revising)

States how and why one's own views have been influenced by the discussion.

Relevant Responding

Engages ideas and avoids responses that are off topic or otherwise do not advance understanding.

Representing Multiple Views

Describes more than one perspective in relation to one another to contribute to a different or deeper understanding.

Self Awareness

Being able to accurately recognize own thoughts and feelings impact on attitudes and behavior.

Synthesizing

Brings together distinct points or perspectives to coordinate the best of each to form a new and larger perspective.

BLOCKING BEHAVIORS can hinder the group process. It is important to recognize and try to prevent them in yourself. Blocking includes:

Attacking

Expresses verbal or nonverbal behavior that is perceived, and substantiated by others, to be hostile or derogatory to other group members or the group process.

Being Defensive

Overreacts to another member's challenge of one's statements.

Dominating

Takes power in a group that was not delegated by other group members or predetermined by outside authority.

Interfering

Displays any verbal or nonverbal behavior that distracts the group members from the task at hand, i.e., texting or telling jokes.

Rambling

Expresses views in a way that leads the group off topic without clear direction, a perceived related purpose, or value to the group process or group task.

Withdrawing

Whether motivated by anger, boredom or some other emotion/reason, a member stops participating in the group by either fully or partially disengaging.

Wrangling

Excessively argues over who has the right answer, with the primary goal of winning the argument.