

Diversity Interviews

Goals

- to enable marginal groups or individuals to share what's happening for them and participate more fully in a workshop or work setting;
- to support the empowerment of the marginal groups or individuals through the work they do as they speak their truth;
- to enable the mainstream to become aware and change its behavior.
- The facilitator checks with the individual or group, usually during break, to find out if the group or individual wishes to be interviewed (given the goals stated above).
- The facilitator explains to the mainstream that there's an individual or group that has something to share that might be valuable for everyone to hear. Explain that this will be an interview with the facilitator, rather than questions from the mainstream. Explain that the mainstream will gain a lot simply by putting total attention on listening, and for that reason there won't be a discussion of what the interviewee says.
- Either invite the indiv./group to the front of the group and conduct the interview there, or go to where the indiv/group. is and be next to them. The choice there has to do with the level of confrontation the indiv/group is willing and interested in doing. The options are, on a range from high confrontation to low confrontation:
 - (a) standing with you in front of the room,
 - (b) sitting with you in front of the room,
 - (c) standing with you where she/they are,
 - (d) sitting with you where she/they are.
- Ask the following three questions, in this order:
 - What do you like/love/find valuable/find a positive side of about your identity?
 - What's hard or painful about your identity?
 - What do you want (the mainstream) to know should some people here choose to be an ally of yours.

Note: These questions are very carefully phrased. The first enables the interviewee to find their own center or groundedness. The second enables the interviewee to express their power-from-within, discover what they most want to share, listen to themselves share it. It also enables the listeners to open their ears and hearts. The third supports the listeners to make a choice (no choice; no empowerment!), which is whether or not to become allies. It also gives the listeners the information they need. The answers to these questions need to be specific to be effective; prompt concreteness.

- Thank the interviewees and ask the listeners to turn to each other (in buzz groups, or pairs) and

compare notes on what they heard. Point out that information sometimes needs digestion, so this is a chance to do that.

- After the buzzing, ask the listeners not to bring up with the interviewees the information in the interview except with permission.
- Go into a vigorous, energy-filled activity.

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