

Conversation Crazyness

Group Size: Any size (groups of six)

Time: 25 minutes

Materials Cost: none

Form into groups of six. Write the “responses” down on index cards and pass out to group members. The moderator assigns a topic for someone in the group to start talking about while the other group members act out their roles. After two minutes, assign a new topic for someone else to discuss and have the other group members switch response cards. The idea is to exaggerate your role. The point of the exercise is to learn skills of a good conversationalist, such as how to listen, respond, and encourage with your words.

RESPONSES

“I don’t quite understand, could you explain a little more?”

You must be really good at [TOPIC]!!

Wow! Did anything go wrong?

Cool. (repeat over and over after each sentence)

Nod enthusiastically. Lean forward. Big-eyed excitement

TOPICS

Tell the group about your experience in driver’s ed. Class.

Tell the group about being in the school play.

Tell the group about your spring break experience.

Tell the group about a date you’ve been on.

Tell the group about your favorite concert.

Tell the group about your favorite hobby.

Tell the group about what happened on your best vacation.

Discussion Questions

1. How often do you think we REALLY listen to what other people are saying? Why is that?
2. How did you feel when others were listening to you? Obviously, everyone was a little over the top, but how do you think it would change our relationships if we started listening more?
3. How could we incorporate better listening skills in our group?