



IATF Opening Questions

Opening questions are a broad category of questions meant to promote active participation and reflection during group conversations, and prompt deeper and more nuanced discussions. They are intended to push participants to go beyond simple “yes” or “no” answers.

This resource is intended to be a starting point for facilitators preparing for a program. They can be used by a facilitator to guide group conversations or distributed to small discussion groups.

Open-Ended Questions

Use these to prompt a longer conversation.

- Did a moment stand out to you? Why?
 - In what way is this different from things you’ve heard or seen before?
- What felt familiar to you? What felt different?
- What surprised you? Why?
- Was there anything that deeply resonated or you deeply disagreed with?

Reflective Questions

Use these to help participants gain further insight into the program, new ideas, and themselves.

- What values, beliefs, experiences, or beliefs inform your perspective?
- Did anything you heard inform your perspective?
- What concerns or challenges has the material raised for you?
 - What about our discussion?
- What value(s), belief(s), and/or experience(s) do you think inform the material/speaker
 - What shapes your perspective?
 - Which value(s), belief(s), and/or experience(s) are shared? Which is/are different?

Diagnostic Questions

Use these to assess where your group’s thought processes and their readiness for contin-

ued conversation at the present moment.

- Why did you want to ask that question? What do you think?
- What led you to that conclusion?
- What is at stake or feels important for you in this?

Processing and Summary Questions

Use these to help participants process the program and summarize major concepts or ideas that emerged.

- What are the main concepts or ideas that emerged throughout this conversation?
- What are your major takeaways?
- What perspectives are missing from this conversation?
- Did anything raised in the conversation challenge or change your perspective?
- Do you have questions for each other?
- What questions do you still have?

Work with IATF

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues (IATF) was created by a coalition of major American Jewish organizations to serve as a non-partisan educational resource on Arab citizens and Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. We would be happy to plan a more-depth in program with you and bring leading speakers on Arab society in Israel to your programs. Reach out to Erica Shaps (she/her), Associate Director, U.S., at EricaSh@jdc.org for more information.