

Daily Practices

Loaded/Non-loaded

For a day try to:

Notice how you ask others questions and the types of questions you ask

At the end of the day briefly consider these questions: Are your questions close ended – designed to elicit a yes or a no response – or are they open ended – designed to elicit more information? Can you find any hidden assumptions in your questions? Are your questions investigative or trying to guide someone's thinking?

Observe the questions you hear today – are they loaded or non-loaded?

At the end of the day briefly consider these questions: How did you recognize a loaded or non-loaded question? How did each kind of question make you feel? Why do we load questions? What was the quality of the conversation in each case (i.e constructive where knowledge was gained or destructive where you simply argued)?

Observe your responses to loaded questions

At the end of the day briefly consider these questions: What did you notice was your predominant reaction? What was the quality of the conversation? Have you learned anything more about loaded questions?

Observe your responses to non-loaded questions

At the end of the day briefly consider these questions: What did you notice was your predominant reaction? What was the quality of the conversation? How did your reaction differ from when you heard a loaded question? Have you learned anything more about non-loaded questions?