

Loaded or Problem Solving Questions

Identify each of the questions below as either a loaded or problem solving question.

1. Did you believe we could enter into this war with Iraq and find allies to support our reactive response to terrorism?
2. What efforts have you made to resolve the conflict?
3. I haven't understood your perspective yet; could you try explaining it in a different way?
4. How does it feel to witness the public's reaction to this year's election?
5. Why did you believe the Democratic Party desperately needed to win this election?
6. What can we do to prevent young people from destroying public property?
7. What are the current needs within your community for health care?
8. Could you clarify your statement for us?
9. Can you imagine any drawbacks from the solution you're recommending?
10. Can we have any confidence that this administration will support peace in the Middle East?
11. Can you share with us how this war has affected yourself personally?
12. I don't understand what you are saying, it doesn't seem logical; can you explain?
13. Can you think of a few ways this administration could support our ability to have an affordable healthcare system for all citizens?
14. Can we explore a way to resolve the evolution vs. creationism education debate that will satisfy the needs of both groups?
15. What are some different approaches to this issue?
16. Illegal immigration is a serious issue in the South; how can we prevent this influx?
17. How can individuals and organizations support young people in our communities?

18. Although both of these views appear to be different, is there a place where we could find some similarity?
19. What are you hearing others say about this election?
20. It is not democratic to fight; how can we shift this conversation to a more democratic tone?

See our answers on the next page.

Here are the questions we identified as loaded and why.

Loaded:

1. Did you believe we could enter into this war with Iraq and find allies to support our reactive response to terrorism?

This question is loaded because it is implying that allies wouldn't support a reactive response and assumes our response was reactive.

2. What efforts have you made to resolve the conflict?

This question is loaded because it assumes that the individual being spoken to feels a sense of responsibility to resolve the conflict. If the individual has agreed to make an effort to resolve the conflict in that context the question would not be loaded.

5. Why did you believe the Democratic Party desperately needed to win this election?

This question is loaded because it assumes that the Democratic Party desperately needed to win the election. If the question were directly quoting the speaker then this question would not be loaded.

6. What can we do to prevent young people from destroying public property?

This question is loaded because it assumes that young people are the source of the destruction; it is also loaded because it assumes that the concern is for the property not the young people.

8. Could you clarify your statement for us?

This question is loaded because it infers that the statement wasn't clear. Lack of comprehension on the listener's part does not make the statement unclear.

10. Can we have any confidence that administration will support peace in the Middle East?

This statement is loaded because it implies a sense of despair that we shouldn't have any confidence; it also loaded because supporting peace is very vague.

12. I don't understand what you are saying, it doesn't seem logical; can you explain?

This statement is loaded because it's accusing the speaker of not being logical and blaming them for the lack of understanding.

13. Can you think of a few ways this administration could support our ability to have an affordable healthcare system for all citizens?

This is loaded because it already assumes the solution to our healthcare issues: an affordable system for all citizens.

16. Illegal immigration is a serious issue in the South; how can we prevent this influx?

This is loaded because it assumes the resolution to the issue is the prevention of influx; this is only one possible resolution..

17. How can individuals and organizations support young people in our communities?

This is loaded because it assumes that the best relationship for organizations and individuals in the community to have with their young people is one of support. Some young people have the capacity to support other members in the community; others might be an active contributor to community policies.

20. It is not democratic to fight; how can we shift this conversation to a more democratic tone?

This is loaded because it is judging the current tone of conversation and blaming the individuals in the conversation for not being democratic.