

Facilitation Competencies Dialogue Facilitation Lab

Guiding Skills			Empowering Skills			Process Skills			Procedural Skills		
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Creating space for difference and dialogue	Co-Facilitation	Integrating content and process	Productive use of self	Naming and framing emotions	Co-creation and sharing power	Cultivating Connection	Connecting the personal with the structural	Bridging dialogue to action	Setting agenda, expectations, and tone	Setting Space	Anticipating and responding to participant needs
 Creates environments where divergent and convergent experiences and perspectives emerge. Utilizes empathy to support and challenge participants within their own identity groups. Engages multi-partial rather than neutral or objective facilitation. Surfaces power dynamics in the group between co- facilitators and members as opportunities for learning 	 Shares power with co-facilitator and with members of the dialogue group in ways that make the best use of everyone's aspirations, skills, and abilities. Models with co- facilitator ways for participants to connect across social boundaries. Models with co- facilitator their commitment to intergroup collaboration and mutually beneficial learning 	 Invites and balancing contributions of self, text, and context Draws upon the happenings of the dialogue to encourage reflection on self and social issues, as well as illustrate conceptual foundations Generates content for dialogue by engaging participants in structured exercises and experiential activities 	 Purposefully uses self and experiences to guide and deepen dialogue, being mindful not to reproduce unequal power dynamics Sees self not as an autonomous individual, rather self is a manifestation of social group memberships, identities, and relationships Normalizes conversation about identities and positionalities Models how to speak from standpoints of identity and power 	 Names common emotions related to cognitive and affective learning about structural inequality Emotions related to learning are normalized, and dialogued about Cultivates space to productively explore emotions; minimizing feelings of isolation and shame Names own emotions and demonstrates vulnerability where appropriate 	 Sustains interactions which are less facilitator centered and more participant centered Helps participants realize dual roles as learners and teachers Encourages participants to engage and facilitate one another Affirms participants' own naming of issues and intergroup dynamics; encourages participants naming power dynamics. 	 Recognizes participants' unique histories of separation, estrangement, and ignorance of each other. Models clear communication and connected speaking and listening with all participants Models interest and curiosity in the stories of all participants Inspires participants to acknowledge and affirm one another's contributions 	 Encourages participants to view experiences and issues through systems of power, privilege, and resistance. Challenges participants to question personal biases and misinformation; considering knowledge different social locations. Challenges participants to step beyond appreciating diversity, towards analyzing social inequity, and complicity in structural oppression 	 Advances dialogue beyond building relationships across difference; channels group energy toward redressing inequalities and social change. Pushes to connect critical analyses to actions that promote diversity and social justice. Challenges participants to interrupt misinformation and bias - educating and engaging others in for wider and more sustained impact 	 Co-creates learning environments with intention Clearly communicates purpose; Orients all participants to the space Assesses baseline needs to support all participants Establishes, models, and regularly revisits group norms. When appropriate gives detail about dialogue activities in advance 	 Selects and arranges spaces which are conducive to dialogic learning; adapting inadequate spaces as needed Understands how space is physically and symbolically conducive to dialogue; makes choices or names and frames limitations accordingly Accounting for the opportunities and limitations of dialogic space with facilitation techniques 	 Understands the embodied needs of dialogue participants Anticipates, prepares, and or communicates resources related to food, waste, and access Ensures equitable participation in all aspects of the dialogue, with particular attention to visual, auditory, and ambulatory needs
 Looks like: Encouraging participants to share personal experiences Acknowledging and affirming diverse contributions Reflecting and probing to encourage greater depth Managing and balancing voices and contributions among individuals and social groups 	 Looks like: Openly sharing co- facilitation decisions and how those decisions were made, in and out of the group process Affirming the unique skills and abilities of co-facilitators and members Demonstrating humility and gratitude, owning mistakes and sharing appreciation 	 Looks like: Inquiring about or commenting on the connections between participant reflections and assigned readings or contemporary social issues Inviting participants to dialogue about the dialogue; look for real time connections with theory and participant stories 	 Looks like: Offering personal anecdotes sparingly to advance dialogue or illustrate concepts Speaking vulnerably of privileged and oppressed social locations to enable participant sharing Pursuing opportunities for self- work outside of facilitation experiences 	 Looks like: Naming emotions like ambivalence, dissonance, discomfort, anger, grief, and guilt Modeling own emotions connected to learning Contextualizes observations and intergroup conflict through systems of oppression rather than blaming or calling out individuals 	 Looks like: Jointly guiding content and process with participants. Encouraging participants to take roles in leading dialogue. Redirecting questions which seek an "expert answer" to the entire group for everyone's thoughts on the issue. 	 Looks like: Openly affirming positions with which you disagree Demonstrating patience and optimism with intergroup conflict As participants share, inviting connection and resonance from other participants 	 Looks like: Inviting participants to connect their stories of race, class, and gender to interlocking systems of white supremacy, capitalism, and cis- heteropatriarchy Inviting participants to question how knowledge was constructed, and whose interests their knowledge serves 	 Looks like: Exploring opportunities for action within the participants' spheres of influence Encouraging participants to channel critique into crafting visions for change 	 Looks like: Inviting participant authorship or feedback on shared values or norms to guide the learning space; as needed Naming group norms when attempting to re- focus the group or addressing intergroup conflict Developing a plan, or naming a lack of plan, before commencing 	 Looks like: Choosing dialogue spaces conscious of the politics imbibed in the space related to images, ownership, and history Considering multiple space dimensions (inside/outside, on campus/off campus, formal/informal, etc.) 	 Looks like: Considering the length and format of the dialogue relative to participant needs concerning hunger, fatigue, and bodily functions Ensuring all participants have easy access to the learning space, including furniture, restrooms, and all learning materials

Nagda (2007) Weaving a tapestry of courage and justice: A resource guide for intergroup dialogue facilitation, Nagda & Maxwell (2011) Deepening the layers of understanding and Connection: A critical-dialogic approach to facilitating intergroup dialogues.

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