



Facilitation Guide: Identifying your 'Big Question'

TOTAL SESSION TIME: 110 minutes

SESSION OBJECTIVES: Participants will develop their 'big question' which will drive their research agenda.

PREPARE:

- Set up flip chart and easel

Opening Block: Community Vision Statement

TIME: 15 minutes

OBJECTIVES: To encourage collaboration and discussion about community and foster a sense of connection amongst the group.

MATERIALS:

- Pens
- Paper

ACTIVITY: The group will brainstorm and create a community vision statement that captures the values and goals of their community. After the draft statement is created, ask participants if anything is missing from the statement. Keep revising until everyone is satisfied with the statement. The final vision statement will be written and displayed on the wall during each session.

DISCUSS:

- How will this statement guide your work?
- What aspect of this vision do you want this research to focus on?
- Who else might you need to engage to realize this vision?

Core Block 1: Identifying the 'Big Question'

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will develop an overarching research question to address their priorities for this study.

MATERIALS:

- Pen
- Flip chart paper

ACTIVITY: Remind participants about the priorities identified in the last session. Review each priority area and confirm with the group that these are still their top priorities for the study.

Split the groups into two. Ask participants to think about and write down a question they have that touches on all the priority areas. Example: If their priorities are community safety and job opportunities. An overarching question would be "what support is needed to ensure youth in Wards 7 and 8 have job opportunities and safe streets?"

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Learn more about Safety 7 at <https://www.childtrends.org/project/centering-youth-experiences-youth-participatory-action>.

DISCUSS: Have each group share their questions. Help participants deliberate on each group's 'Big Question.' Facilitate a discussion to help combine or reconcile each question into one overarching question. Post the final question for everyone to see.

Core Blocks 2: Questions for Priorities Areas

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will develop questions for specific priority areas.

MATERIALS:

- Pen
- Post-it notes

ACTIVITY: Remind participants of the priority areas and their new 'Big Question.'

Post the priority areas on flip chart paper around the room. Separate participants into pairs. Ask participants to go in pairs to each priority area and write questions they have about the priority area on Post-its. Tell them to write as many as they can in 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, they will switch to another priority area. Keep switching until everyone has an opportunity to visit each flip chart.

DISCUSS: Read the questions for each priority area to the group. Ask if any participants want to add additional questions based on the questions they heard. Let participants know that in the next section they will finalize their priority specific questions.

Core Block 3: Refining Research Questions

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Refine the Research Question.

MATERIALS:

- Pen
- Flip chart paper

ACTIVITY: Remind participants that the research questions they decide on will be the basis for their study.

Rewrite the priorities and questions onto one sheet. Review each priority and the associated questions. Help participants develop a hypothesis about their questions.

DISCUSS:

- What do you think you might find as the answers to some of these questions?
- What concerns you about the potential outcome of these questions?
- What excites you about the potential outcome of these questions?
- What do you hope to do with the outcome of these questions?

Closing Block: Closing Ritual

TIME: 5 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will end the meeting with their closing ritual.

ACTIVITY: Ask a participant to lead the group in the closing ritual.