

## Key Points For Questions That Matter

- Most powerful question starters begin with What or How
- Must move beyond blame or “right & wrong”
- Should lead to deeper questions
- Invite exploration

Some examples:

- What question if answered could make the most difference in this issue?
- What assumptions or beliefs are we holding that are key to this conversation?
- What is important to you about..... and why do you care?
- What is our intention here?
- What is missing or what are we not seeing? What do we still need clarity about?
- What has been the major learning or insight so far?
- What is still in the room that hasn't been said or addressed? What are we afraid to talk about?
- If we were guaranteed success what big, bold step might we commit to?
- How can we support each other in taking the next steps?
- What challenges might show up and how might we meet them?

## In Designing Your Own Questions, Ask Yourself: Does this question...

- Stimulate thinking and exploring?
- Hook curiosity?
- Provoke reflection?
- Invite possibility?
- Stimulate learning?
- Create thoughtful listening?
- Invite collaboration?
- Focus attention and further inquiry?

“A conversational leader, a life-affirming leader is one who knows how to rely on and use the intelligence that exists everywhere in the community, the school, or the organization. A leader these days needs to be a host – one who **convenes** people, convenes diversity, who convenes all viewpoints in a creative processes where our intelligence can come forth.” - *Margaret Wheatley*