Focused Conversation Method: ORID

A TOP™ Method of the Institute of Cultural Affairs: *The Art of Focused Conversation*

Many of us are familiar with the "What, so what, now what" process of discovery. However, the ORID method invites participants to engage at a deeper, more meaningful level.

> *Why?* Rational discussion is an open, focused, serious collaborative dialogue of discovery where you speak so that you can hear. In stating your opinion, you invite others to differ. You listen to their differing views and offer differing views of your own; moreover, you don't merely exchange views with others; rather, you change your own views. You state your opinions experimentally, for the purpose of testing your thinking and developing your understanding. – Howard and Barton: *Thinking Together.*
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> *How?* This method assumes that we find the reality of life in the palpable, observable, sensory world. It is a whole-system, four-stage process. It uses all of the body's resources to come to terms with the object: the senses, memories and feelings. It uses both the left and right brain, intuition and reason. The Focused Conversation provides: meaningful dialogue; broadened group perspective; clear ideas and conclusions, and allows the entire group to participate.

Key elements or stages of the Focused Conversation:

1. Topic 2. Rational Aim 3. Experiential Aim 4. Opening **5. ORID (see below)** 6. Intents for each ORID level 7. Closing.

For our purposes, we will utilize and introduce element 5 (ORID) to facilitate a shared understanding and experiential interaction of partnership development through the levels of collaboration. For more in depth descriptions or TOPs workshops, go to the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The University of Minnesota Extension also utilizes ORID in the Cultivating Powerful Participation workshops.

The following questions will be discussed during the June 2nd/June 3rd Calls:

Objective Questions (To engage in the five senses)

1. What stand out from the presentation about the levels of collaboration as reported by liaisons and partners?

Reflective Questions (To elicit and acknowledge imaginative, intuitive and emotional responses)

1. What are some of your experiences related to the collaboration levels?
2. How are you affected by the collaboration level in your partnership(s)?

Interpretive Questions (To elicit the sharing of experiences and individual meaning)

1. Why is understanding the level of collaboration of your partnership important?
2. What did you learn that you didn't know before about our overall levels of collaborations for ASPHN partnerships?
3. What are the possible effects of not moving "up" in the levels of collaboration with our overall partnerships?

Decisional Questions (To develop depth level, collective opinions or resolve that may lead to future action)

1. What are some of the most effective ways to move up in the levels of collaboration?

AND

What is one immediate action you are empowered to take in your partnership?