

SESSION TITLE: ***Building Audience Centered Questions -- Essential Theme Questions & Dialogic Questions***

SESSION LENGTH 90 minutes

OBJECTIVES: *At the end of the session students should be able to:*

- Write an essential theme question for their site.
- Write 5 dialogic questions.

TRAINING AIDS

- [Powerpoint](#) (from Mather Forging Connections class, or create your own)
- Movie poster photo-language set -- one set for each table (can be the same or different); create this set from pictures of 20-30 popular movie posters of your choice; print them as 8x10 pages or make them into trading card sizes
- Optional video -- [Grant and Jay on Essential Questions](#), Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, kineticvideo.com, 2014 (use first 2:25 minutes)

HANDOUTS

- Copies of a site bulletin or unigrid brochure from your park -- choose one that's mostly informational but has potential for generating discussion about current issues and "big, juicy ideas"

WORKBOOK PAGES

- Essential Theme Questions - The Big Juicy So-What
- Dialogic Questions - "You" Questions for Audience Contribution
- Good, Better, Worst, Best--Workshopping Dialogic Questions Activity

FACILITATOR NOTES

As possible, be sure to link traditional skills to ACE skills -- to show how traditional skills are still present and valued, but evolving for ACE.

| CONTENT | METHOD | TIME |
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| <p>Introduction In the course of your daily work, think for a moment of the types of questions you ask your visitors... why do you ask visitors questions? What are your personal motives for asking those questions? Unwrap possible motives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Get to know them · Test knowledge · Check for understanding or agreement · Gather opinions · Bait or provoke – start a debate <p>*Genuine curiosity should be part of it.</p> <p>Audience-centered experiences use two types of purposeful questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential theme questions • Supporting dialogic questions | <p>Large group share, gather answers on flip chart</p> | <p>10 min</p> |

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| <p>Essential Theme Questions Essential theme questions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help to frame inquiry and promote critical thinking • set the stage to explore big juicy ideas or issues. <p>Movie posters activity -- Each table has a set of movie poster prints or cards -- decide as a table group which movie you have all seen or know about -- then brainstorm what big, juicy, universal, "meaning of life" questions does that movie explore? Make a list of those questions -- be prepared to share.</p> <p>Large group share-out -- these are examples of essential questions -- they're based on universal concepts -- the big meanings and ideas that everyone can relate to in some way</p> <p>What does "essential" mean? Optional video clip -- Grant and Jay on Essential Questions, Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, kineticvideo.com, 2014 (use first 2:25 minutes)</p> <p>Refer to page in workbook on characteristics of Essential Questions -- this is what makes an essential question "essential."</p> <p>Re-thinking themes...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional program <u>tells</u> the participants the meanings from the interpreter's perspective and addresses a theme statement. • ACE program <u>asks</u> the audience about the meanings allowing the interpreter and audience to learn from/with each other. <i>Uses an essential theme question as the springboard and guiding focus to co-discover resource meanings WITH the audience.</i> • Examples (workbook or Power Point slides) <p>Developing essential theme questions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify compelling site and resource linkages to connect the audience to an aspect of current social context • Frame a question that will allow you to explore this big societal "so what" with your audience <p>Site bulletin activity (Part 1):</p> <p>Use the site bulletin (or park brochure) at your tables -- everyone take 5 minutes to read through that, and start to jot down some ideas for essential theme questions that spring to mind from this information (or use an example from the participants' parks) -- then take 10 minutes in your table</p> | <p>Table group activity</p> <p>Video clip (opt 2:25 min)</p> <p>Discussion with Power Point and/or workbook</p> <p>Table group activity</p> | <p>45 min total</p> <p>(15 min)</p> <p>(10 min)</p> <p>(20 min)</p> |
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| <p>group to discuss ideas and write one essential theme question to share with the rest of the class – write it on a sticky sheet... Post it on the board (give each group a space on a white board or flip chart). Use the list of characteristics and examples for essential questions that is in your workbooks as a reference.</p> <p>Unwrap -- groups report out</p> <p>Transition: A good essential question is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still based on tangible-intangible linkages from your park resource -- a big idea that your park's story is uniquely able to speak to • It's a question about social and reconciliatory truth. • Like with a traditional theme statement, you might not ever actually ask this big question, but it will focus/guide the design of your product -- selection of content, choice of techniques, and crafting of supporting dialogic questions <p>Additional reference to explore on your own – refer to web link for more ideas... “A Giant List of Really Good Essential Questions”</p> | | |
| <p>Dialogic Questions</p> <p>Good questions make you WANT to answer them. When someone asks you a question, what makes <i>you</i> want to answer it? (Gather responses from large group) Unwrap possible responses: personal, interesting, not right or wrong, based on personal experience, open-ended, inviting, honest...</p> <p>The purpose of dialogic questions is to invite sharing and conversation. Dialogic questions are open – they don't have prescribed answers -- they asks for opinion, belief or knowledge based on personal experience -- the unique thoughts and perspectives of audience experience and relevance.</p> <p>Refer to workbook page on Dialogic Questions -- characteristics and examples of dialogic questions (examples in workbook or Power Point slides)</p> <p>How are these questions different than the essential questions we were looking at earlier?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are “You” questions... • Dialogic questions make audience-centered experiences audience-centered. • It might help you to think of these as ORACLE questions (only right answer comes from lived experience) | <p>Discussion with Power Point and/or workbook</p> | <p>30 min total (10 min)</p> |

questions and dialogic questions for your site – continue to practice the ethic of collaboration and seeking feedback – because writing good ACE questions is nearly impossible without feedback...

Homework: Write 5 dialogic questions about your site.
(Workspace is provided in workbook pg. 12-13)

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