

Powerful Questions



A powerful question evokes clarity, action, discovery, insight or commitment. It is an open-ended question that does not elicit a yes or no response. It is especially useful for helping to create a fresh perspective.

Anticipation

What is possible?
What is exciting to you about this?

Assessment

How does it look to you?
How do you feel about it?
What resonates for you?

Evaluation

What is the opportunity here? What is the challenge?
What do you think that means?

Exploration

What part of the situation have you not yet explored?
What other angles can you think of?
What is just one more possibility?
What are your other options?

For Instance

How else could a person handle this?
If you could do anything you wanted, what would you do?

Predictions

How do you suppose it will all work out?
What will that get you?
What are the chances of success?

History

What led up to it?
What have you tried so far?

Implementation

What is the action plan?
What will you have to do to get the job done?
What support do you need to accomplish it?

Resources

What do you know about it now?
How can you find out more?
What resources do you need to help you decide?
What resources are available to you?

Clarification

What do you mean?
What is the part that is not yet clear?
Can you say more?

Elaboration

What other ideas/thoughts/feelings do you have about it?

Integration

What will you take away from this?
What was the lesson?
How would you pull all this together?

Learning

If you had free choice in the matter, what would you do?
If we could wipe the slate clean, what would you do?

Options

What are the possibilities?
What are possible solutions?
What will happen if you do, and what will happen if you don't?

Outcomes

What is your desired outcome?
If you got it, what would you have?
How will you know you have reached it?
What would it look like?

Substance

What seems to be the main obstacle?
What is stopping you?
What concerns you the most about . . . ?