

Facilitation

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Promising Practices for Effective Facilitation

An effective facilitator...

- Remains impartial about the subject
- Models cooperative attitudes and skills
- Does not take on an “expert” role
- Keeps people focused and on track without being rigid
- Asks good questions at the right times
- Encourages deeper reflection
- Helps people negotiate differences, identify common ground and establish priorities for action

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Six Facilitator Choices

- As a “reaction” question
- As a new starting question
- Let there be silence
- Move on
- Paraphrase
- Ask a “probing” or “follow-up” question

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Planning Considerations

- Who will you ask to facilitate deliberation?
- How will facilitators be trained?
- What are the expected facilitation tasks and responsibilities, and how will these contribute to the ultimate goal of deliberation?