Boundary Spanning: Powerful Questions

Powerful questions allow deep identity differences to surface. As a result, groups may develop a new awareness of the differences and their sources. Often groups learn that assumptions about the other group are incorrect.

Consider these powerful questions if you need to better understand the boundaries that divide two groups. What are your answers? What would your group’s answers be? How can you use these questions to reach across the boundary that divides the two groups?

Values
- What values are guiding your thinking?
- What is the one value you are unwilling to give up?
- What is a value that you believe both groups share?
- And what else?

Assumptions
- What assumptions do you hold about the other group?
- What is the source of these assumptions and how could you test them?
- And what else?

Beliefs
- What does your group say about the other group?
- What do you believe the other group says about your group?
- And what else?

Knowledge
- What is something about your group that the other group does not know?
- What is something you’d like to know about the other group?
- And what else?

Fears, Aspirations, and Goals
- What is a concern you have about working with another group?
- What aspirations and goals do you have about working with another group?
- And what else?
