

Tool for Facilitation & Animation: FAMA Learning Dialogue Technique

There are a variety of exercises a facilitator and animator can use to help people think and speak about specific issues, and thus begin their self-discovery and learning processes. These include contextual Bible studies (CBS), theological reflections, simulation exercises, mapping exercises, group energizers and learning codes (a story, picture or drama that depicts a message). A facilitator and animator's role is to set up the environment (explain the exercise and prepare the equipment or space necessary) and to ask questions...lots of them!

At the completion of the exercise, our role is to then assist people in processing the learning points of the exercises. By reflecting on the exercise and processing the event, people will move from realization to real life application and action. Depending upon the exercise, there may be very specific processing questions we will want to ask. However, the FAMA learning dialogue technique is a helpful tool we may use.

FAMA stands for Facts, Association, Meaning and Action.

It represents the types of questions we may ask people and groups to lead them from reflection to action. The following is a generic example of the FAMA questioning sequence for lesson processing:

1) FACTS: To help people reflect about and discuss what they have just done or seen Sample Questions: What did you see? What happened? Who was involved? What did they/you do?

2) ASSOCIATION: To help people connect this experience to their own feelings and their own lives Sample Questions: Have you ever seen anything like this before? Can you share an example or your own story? How did this or your own experience make you feel? What character do you most identify with and why?

3) MEANING: To help people identify and discuss the deeper meaning of the experience, and its importance to them, others, and their community in general Sample Questions: How often do you see something like this happen? What are the consequences? What effect does it have on you, or others? Why is this affect important? Why should it be encouraged (or discouraged)? How is this story relevant to your current day experiences?

4) ACTION: To invite people to take Action Sample questions: How might this cause you to act differently or how might reinforce something you already do? If this is important, what can you do to address it? Should you work alone or together?