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# THE SIX BASIC RULES OF GOOD QUESTIONS

#### 1. ASK OPEN-ENDED NOT CLOSED QUESTIONS:

ASK - WHAT, HOW, WHY? AVOID YES/NO ANSWERS - DID YOU? ISN'T IT TRUE?

#### 2. DON'T GIVE PEOPLE ANY EASY ESCAPE

#### **ROUTES:**

AVOID THE DOUBLE-BARRELLED QUESTION ASK TOO BROAD A QUESTION, YOU GIVE THEM AN OPEN HIGHWAY

### 3. BLAND IS BEAUTIFUL - KEEP IT CLEAN AND SIMPLE

AVOID TRIPWIRE OR CONTROVERSIAL WORD

#### 4. THE WORST QUESTION IS NOT ASKING ONE

AVOID MAKING STATEMENTS, GIVING OPINIONS OR GETTING INTO A DEBATE

#### 5. LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN

GRAB THEIR WORDS, MAKE THEM YOURS AND THROW THEM BACK SHIFT THE WEIGHT BACK TO THE SUBJECT

### 6. ONCE YOU KNOW THE RULES, KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO BREAK THEM

#### FORCING THE ANSWER:

- o EITHER/OR
- o MASSAGING THE ANSWER
- o REPEATING QUOTES

#### ASKING THE TOUGH QUESTION/

#### **INTERRUPTING**

- o BE RIGOROUS WITHOUT BEING RUDE
- o BE CAREFUL HOW YOU
- CHARACTERIZE CRITICISM
- o ADMIT IT IS DIFFICULT OR
- UNCOMFORTABLE

## KNOW WHEN THE QUESTION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ANSWER

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