



HIRE FROM PH · FOR EDUCATORS

Ask a question that gets answered

A forty-five-minute session in pairs, quiet enough that a normal voice carries across one table. Everyone brings a question nobody answered, and sends a rewritten one before they leave.

WHY THIS SESSION

A well-formed question gets help. A vague one gets ignored, everywhere.

By the end, you can turn a vague plea into a four-part question a busy professional will answer, and you notice how often writing the second part answers it before anyone replies. You send one well-formed question to a real person or a real community before you leave the room.

THE METHOD THIS SESSION DRILLS



ASK: get your question answered

- 01 Show what you are trying to do: the goal, not the symptom
- 02 Show what you already tried, and what happened, in the exact words
- 03 Ask for the method, not the file

Rewrite the last question you asked anyone into this four-part form. Notice how often you can now answer it yourself.

THE CLOCK

Forty-five minutes, one question each

- 13 min · Frame why good people ignore your question, then put the unanswered question on the table
- 7 min · Parts one and two: the goal and the attempts
- 7 min · Part three: what happened, exactly
- 8 min · Part four: ask for the method, not the file
- 10 min · Read it aloud, send it, then close with the time-box

THE BRIEF

What you do in this room

Pairs facing each other, a device or paper each, and one real unanswered question from the past week. Screenshots are welcome, because the exact wording is the material.

- Say which of two questions you would answer with four minutes left and a full inbox, and why
- Write the four parts down the page: goal, tried, happened, ask
- Copy your unanswered question word for word; the tidied-up version hides the fault
- Tick which of the four parts is present and circle what is missing

Rewrite it in four parts, read it aloud, then send it

Part one is the goal, not the symptom. Part three is the literal error, the literal reply, the literal number, never your paraphrase of it.

- 01 Write the outcome you want in one sentence, then list what you tried and what each attempt ruled out
- 02 Replace every paraphrase with the exact text, message, or number
- 03 Write the ask twice, for the file and for the method; read both aloud, keep the second, cross out the first
- 04 Read the rewritten question to your partner and answer theirs
- 05 Send your own to a real person or a real community before you leave the room

DEBRIEF

Questions for the room

- How many of you answered your own question while writing part two?
- What does 'I tried everything' tell the person reading it?
- Why does showing your attempts get a better answer than showing your desperation?
- When is it too early to ask, and when is it too late?
- What is the difference between the answer you wanted and an answer you can reuse next month?

COMMON MISTAKES

What goes wrong, and the fix

- Rewriting a participant's question for them → ask the four questions and let them write the words
- Fixing grammar → move them back to structure; imperfect English with all four parts still gets answered
- Nobody sends anything → protect the last block; a rewritten question left in a notebook changes nothing
- Teaching this as a session about politeness → say plainly it is about respecting the reader's time

TAKE-HOME

You leave having sent one question a busy professional will answer

A time limit you set yourself, written on the page, and the UNSTICK card for when asking is the right move and when it is an escape. The drill: rewrite the last question you asked anyone into the four parts.

NEXT SESSION

Next: Deconstruct a resume

A ninety-minute session where pairs hunt five real resumes, write their own testable rules, and build from a blank page with the examples closed. It needs a room that can argue.



LICENCE

Run it, adapt it, pass it on

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