

The Art of Asking Questions

Coaches need to be aware that the WAY a question is asked may limit the creativity of the answers. Here are some general, all-purpose questions you can use with your team(s):

- Do you think any other team would think of this?
- Can you think of a more creative way to do this?
- What other materials could be used to (create this effect, to make this move, to make it lighter in weight, to make it funnier, etc.)?
- What kinds of things do we need to find out in order to do this?

And now, for some ideas to use when you want to say something you're not allowed to say!

- How else could you...?
- Why did this happen?
- Where could you find out?
- Is this your best...?
- Does this meet the standard?
- Is this job done?
- What do we mean by style?
- What should be done?
- When should it be done?
- Who should do it?
- Can this be tested?
- Can we combine ideas?
- Why is it necessary?
- How else could this be arranged?
- What should come next?
- What makes sense? What makes nonsense?
- What could be said? What could be left unsaid?

Good questioning can really help elevate your team's solution and enjoyment of creative problem solving, without introducing outside assistance. We hope this helps you this year. If you have any tips you've picked up along the way, please pass them along and we'll share them with other coaches.