10 Occasions to Use Response Cards

One of the simplest ways to engender thought and discussion is to ask participants to write a response on a blank index card. These cards, once written on, can be kept by the writer to ponder and to stimulate contributions to class-wide discussion. Or the cards can be collected, shuffled, and distributed to participants (each of whom then receives a card whose author is unknown). Finally, the cards can be passed around a group so that each participant can read what others have written. There are many things you can ask participants to write on their response cards.

1. A question about the subject matter of the session.
   What do you think the “platinum rule” is?

2. An answer to a test question posed by the trainer.
   Process mapping is a process improvement tool.

3. An expectation or need each participant has about the session.
   I want to learn how to get my boss to micro-manage less.

4. A solution to a case problem.
   One way that Mr. Brown can reduce his tax burden is by purchasing tax-deferred annuities.

5. A definition for an important term.
   Appreciative inquiry is an organization development approach in which the organization looks for what works well and devotes itself to doing more of it.

6. A belief or opinion held by the participant.
   I believe that a diverse workforce has more benefits than drawbacks.

7. A fact about the subject matter that the participant believes to be true.
   The AIDS virus has a long latency period.
8. A hypothesis about an experiment or research project.

Males over six feet tall are more likely to obtain advancement than those who are under six feet tall.

9. A preference held by the participant.

I wish that our performance appraisals were more frequent.

10. A proverb, slogan, or title (book, movie, song, etc.) that the participant favors.

If it ain’t broke, break it!