

Building a Foundation for Community Leadership

**Involving Youth in Community
Development Projects**

Examples of Topics

- Education
- Organizing
Community Action
- Economic
Development
- Social Services
- Drug Abuse
- City Incorporation
- Law Enforcement
- Roads, Water, & Sewer
- Health Care Services
- Affordable Housing
- Adequate Retail
Sector
- Public Beautification
- Recreational Facilities

Steps for Brainstorming

- Organize groups
- Discussion
- Generate questions
- Class consensus
- Vote

Tips for Good Question Writing

- Write clear and concise questions
- Ask about “concrete” actions
- Avoid biased and emotionally charged words
- Don’t get too personal
- Avoid double questions and double negatives

Examples of Questions

- What concerns you?
- What do you like/dislike about our community?
- What do you notice about our community?
- How is our community different from others you may have visited or lived in?

Examples of Questions *(cont.)*

- **What services does our community need to offer that might help you?**
- **What do you see as a weakness in our community services?**

Tips for Writing Responses

- **Make responses mutually exclusive**
- **Use balanced response options**
- **Include a “No Answer” option**
- **Include a “Don’t Know” option**
- **Use responses that cue memory**

Formatting the Questionnaire

- **Ask easy questions first**
- **Put sensitive questions last**
- **Put open-ended questions last**
- **Put important questions first**
- **Place questions in logical order**
- **Include screening questions**
- **Use transition statements**

Characteristics of Respondents

- **Are you a registered voter?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **Did you vote in the last county-wide election in 1991?**
 - Yes
 - No

Characteristics of Respondents

(cont.)

- **Do you own a house or other property in Collier County?**
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Attitude & Belief Questions

- **Do you favor or oppose expanding youth recreation programs or do you know?**
 - Favor
 - Oppose
 - Don't know
- **Do you think Superintendent of Schools should be elected or appointed?**
 - Elected
 - Appointed

Attitude & Belief

Questions *(cont.)*

- Do you favor or oppose free public transportation for our community's elderly and handicapped citizens?
 - Favor
 - Oppose
 - No opinion

Behavior Questions

- Do you attend city hall meetings that are open to the public?
 - Yes
 - No
- Would you participate in city hall meetings if more meetings were held at night?
 - Yes
 - No

Needs and Problems

- How important to you is having a maternal and child preventative health care program in Immokalee?
 - Very Important
 - Somewhat Important
 - Not At All Important
 - Don't Know

Needs and Problems *(cont.)*

- **Do you think health care is a serious problem, a moderate problem, a slight problem or not a problem in Immokalee?**
 - **Serious Problem**
 - **Moderate Problem**
 - **Slight Problem**
 - **Not a Problem**
 - **Don't Know**

Needs and Problems *(cont.)*

- What are the 10 most important health care problems in Immokalee?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Etc.

Alternative Solutions

- What should community leaders do to improve recreational programs for youth in Immokalee?

Alternative Solutions *(cont.)*

- Some people think that Immokalee needs to expand recreation programs for youth. Do you think the county should build a swimming pool, build a boys and girls club, expand sports programs or do nothing at all?
 - Build Swimming Pool
 - Build Boys and Girls Club
 - Expand Sports Programs
 - Do nothing at all

Alternative Solutions *(cont.)*

- **Do you think that a boys and girls club should be built to expand recreational programs for youth?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **Do you think that a swimming pool should be built to expand recreational programs for youth?**
 - Yes
 - No

Funding Projects

- Would you be in favor of a \$50 million bond issues to build a hospital in Immokalee if it increased your property taxes by \$50 per year?
 - Yes
 - No
- Suppose that there is public support for building a swimming pool. Should taxes be used to pay for the pool?
 - Yes
 - No

Funding Projects *(cont.)*

- When community leaders want to carry out a project, they need money to pay for the project. Should they use...

...money from increases in general property taxes?

Yes

No

...money from property taxes from special taxing districts?

Yes

No

Funding Projects *(cont.)*

- When community leaders want to carry out a project, they need money to pay for the project. Should they use...

...money from fees paid by people who use the services or facility?

Yes

No

...money from a 1 cent county option sales tax?

Yes

No

Organizing a Questionnaire

- Easy questions toward front.
- Important questions at front.
- Sensitive questions toward end.
- Demographic questions toward end.
- Use logic in ordering questions.
- Use transition statement to make questionnaire flow.

Ordering Questions Sample

*First, I would like to ask you for
your views about some issues in Immokalee.*

- How important to you is having a maternal and child preventative health care program in Immokalee?
 - Somewhat Important
 - Somewhat Important
 - Not At All Important
 - Don't Know
- Do you think that a boys and girls club should be built to expand recreational programs for youth?
 - Yes
 - No

Ordering Questions Sample

These next questions are asked about how projects should be funded.

- **Do you think that a swimming pool should be built to expand recreational programs for youth?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **Would you be in favor of a \$50 million bond issue to build a hospital in Immokalee if it increased your property taxes by \$50 a year?**
 - Yes
 - No

Ordering Questions Sample

Now I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.

- **Did you vote in the last county-wide election in 1991?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **Do you own the place where you live, or live with parents, relatives or friends?**
 - Own
 - Rent
 - Live with parents, relative or friends
 - Other