



## ONLINE RESOURCES CRAFTING QUESTIONS

**Essential Partners** (formerly Public Conversations Project) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 617-923-1216, is a pioneer in the field of dialogue. Their website contains a wealth of information: [www.whatisessential.org](http://www.whatisessential.org). To save you time, I've identified three links which specifically address the topic of how to craft questions to gain new understanding.

1. [Fostering Dialogue Across Divides: A Nuts and Bolts Guide](#), by Maggie Herzig and Laura Chasin

You can download this 170 page guide at: <https://www.whatisessential.org/resource/fostering-dialogue-across-divides-nuts-and-bolts-guide-essential-partners>. In order to access this guide online, you will need to sign-in and create a password, but there is no cost and they will not sell your contact information. The Guide will be available for purchase in hard copy sometime during the Spring, 2018. It is an excellent resource and takes you through the dialogue process step by step.

The following pages give examples of specific questions:

- a. pp.123-126 – general questions for openings and closing of dialogues.
- b. p. 130 – questions for interfaith dialogue, following screening clips from the PBS film, “Mohammad: Legacy of a Prophet.
- c. pp. 132-133. – general introduction to talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2. [Video: Section 10 of the video series, entitled “How do Questions Advance Dialogue”](#)

<https://www.whatisessential.org/resource/dialogue-virtual-workshop>

This six-minute video (section 10 of the series) explores in more depth how questions can either advance dialogue and create new understanding or shut down conversation. In order to access this video, you must sign in to their website.

**SHARING THE WELL: A Resource Guide for Jewish-Muslim Engagement A Project of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Hartford Seminary, and the Islamic Society of North America, Kim Zeitman and Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Editors.**

Sharing the Well is an excellent resource for Muslim-Jewish Dialogue. The pdf link is below.

[http://www.jtsa.edu/stuff/contentmgr/files/0/4ba8adb270fb8b873ab22fdf33ae9b0f/misc/sharing\\_the\\_well.pdf](http://www.jtsa.edu/stuff/contentmgr/files/0/4ba8adb270fb8b873ab22fdf33ae9b0f/misc/sharing_the_well.pdf)

The Table of Contents on page three divides the discussion topics into three sections: Caring for Others, Family and Heritage, and Religious Life. Each section includes context, religious texts, and questions for discussion from both a Muslim and Jewish scholar. If you are interested in discussing any of these topics in your chapter meetings, consider going to this resource for ideas and questions to frame your discussion.

Beginning on page nineteen, “Caring for Others” topics include: giving; social action; and hospitality.

Beginning on page fifty-one, “Family and Heritage” topics include: family relationships; passing on tradition; and intermarriage.

Beginning on page eighty-three, “Religious Life” topics include: Prayer; life-cycle events; and holidays.

**Children of Abraham: Jews and Muslims in Conversation, A dialogue curriculum prepared in partnership by the Union for Reform Judaism and the Islamic Society of North America.**

<http://www.rac.org/sites/default/files/Children-of-Abraham-Muslim-Jewish-Guide.pdf>

This pdf guide is also available for purchase. It is similar in approach to Sharing the Well, and includes texts and questions for dialogue on eleven topics: The Torah and Qur’an; tzedakah and zakat; Abraham, Isma’il, and Isaac; Jerusalem; unity and diversity within the community; worship and prayer; difficult texts; pilgrimage; religious tolerance; and Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. It is another excellent source for meeting discussions for both new and long-standing chapters.

**Festival of Faiths**

<http://festivaloffaithskc.org/resources/interfaith-dialogue-resource-kit/>

This resource kit is a good general introduction to dialogue and is particularly helpful in its discussion on how best to sequence questions.