

PEPP: Common Discussion Questions

Background for Teams

In addition to the surveys which provide mostly quantitative and closed-ended data, we are requesting that each PEPP team find some way to incorporate into one/some of their discussions with the public/community, the following two questions, which would then be common across all projects.

We then would like the projects to report back on the themes and topics that arose in response to the two questions.

Our hope is that these questions will serve the following purposes:

- *They will result in information that is the same across projects, and reveal similarities and differences between projects.*
- *They may prove to be useful “tools” and could be included in the toolkit as questions that future courts are recommended to ask during their engagements.*
- *They may point to other “tools” that various communities feel are important for addressing their concerns and building trust.*

The main questions are fairly short and simple. However, we have included additional prompts and follow-up questions which we hope can be used to foster rich discussion.

Suggested Script Introduction

Thank you again for coming and talking with us today (**AND IF RELEVANT FOR PRIOR MEETINGS**). As a final activity, we would like the group to discuss two questions: What do you feel were the most important things learned from our interactions? And, what would you like most to see happen next?

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION IF TEAMS FEEL IS NEEDED: These two questions are questions the National Center for State Courts Evaluation Team has asked each group to answer, to provide information that can help advise future courts on how to hold effective engagements.

The Common Questions

Note: Your team can implement these as you think is best. For example, you could read the questions to your groups, or your team may wish to put the bold questions up for display (e.g., one question per slide in a powerpoint you are using, or written on a flip chart so that you can write down ideas as people suggest them). You could also then let attendees “vote” for the answers listed by using stickers to, for example, vote for their top two or three ideas listed under each question.

(1) What are the most important things learned during this engagement?

- *Do not display the questions below which are in italics. These are merely additional prompts, which you may find useful to foster more discussion as needed:*
 - *For example, did you or others present at the engagement learn anything that impacted trust in the courts?*

- *What do you think is very important for you and your community to know, yet you did not know before?*
- *What do you think is the best way(s) for courts to get this information to people?*
- *Do you think the courts learned from the various individuals and communities who were present?*

(2) What would you like to see as a follow-up to this engagement?

- *Do not display these questions below which are in italics. These are prompts, to foster more discussion as needed:*
 - *In particular, what follow up would build trust with those at the engagement and in the broader community?*
 - *For example,*
 - *would you like more engagements to occur?*
 - *Would you like to have the court take action on something specific that came from this meeting?*
 - *What changes would you like to see have happened in 5 years? 10 Years?*