

Hints for New Hosts

Greetings Hosts:

Thanks so much for your interest & participation in hosting a conversation that matters! Hosting is a lot like listening...it is an art, and it takes practice. It is also fun, and often very rewarding, both for the host and for the participants. Hosting a Global MindShift conversation is a great, low-risk way to be of service.

While each conversation is unique, we've found the following hints can make a big difference between a conversation that thrives and one that does not. We're eager to provide support and answer any questions which may arise regarding conversation set-up, hosting, subject matter. Please do not hesitate to email us at any time! (Email: gmsinfo@global-mindshift.org)

Proven Host Helpers:

1. Make positive contact with each participant.

Just as a host welcomes a new arrival to his or her home, a conversation host needs to ensure that new participants are greeted. Whether individually welcoming new arrivals with a personal greeting or posting a simple note informing the participants that their latest post is appreciated, people feel engaged and motivated to continue when they feel heard and valued. Acknowledging someone doesn't take much. A simple "I appreciated what you just said. Thanks for sharing" can make all the difference between a participant coming back or moving on.

2. Respond to most (or as many as possible) postings directly.

Unless a conversation is so active that it isn't practical, most conversations benefit from an engaged host who takes the time to respond to each person's post. The conversation will move forward if the participants feel what they have to say has value and is being heard.

3. Ask open-ended (non-leading/non-judgemental) questions for all to consider.

Closed-ended questions invite short "yes/no" answers, while open-ended questions encourage dialogue. Example: "How do you feel about...?" or "Can you share more about your experience with..."

4. Periodically summarize the overall picture of where the group (or thread) is, or may be headed, or suggest new angles.

Overall, **stay positive & have fun!** Always try to invite a wide variety of viewpoints. Avoid "preachy" postings and try to qualify your statements using such wording as "Based on my experiences, I find..."

Stalls happen! Some conversations may stall - but there is no need to panic ... Try asking yourself: "What needs to be said in this group that isn't being said?"

Remember: Let us know how we can assist you! (Email: gmsinfo@global-mindshift.org)