



Choose your next conversation

Consider the following list of questions as starters for empowering conversations:

What are the three most important things you've learned about getting along with people?

If you could read only 10 books during the rest of your life, what would they be?

Who was your favorite teacher in school, and what was the most important thing you learned from that person?

If you were healthy and financially secure but only had six months to live, what would you do?

What do you want your obituary to say about you?

What is the single most important thing you could do to eliminate world hunger?
(Or lower the crime rate? Or ease the threat of nuclear war? Or improve our schools?)

What are the three most important things you want your children to learn?

If you constantly feel pressed for time, then imagine that someone would pay you \$10,000 to free up four hours during the next week. The only condition is this: You have to find those extra hours without skipping meals, losing sleep, avoiding major responsibilities, or taking time away from your family and friends. Could you find the extra time? How?

If you constantly feel pressed for money, imagine that your salary was cut by 10 percent. How could you live on the reduced income without sacrificing your overall quality of life? Could you live happily on 25 percent less? 50 percent less?

Another strategy for shifting conversations is to ask people to complete the following sentences. Use them as a springboard to new conversations.

A place I would like to visit is ...

The thing I like most about my job is ...

My most valued possession is ...

One of my secret ambitions is to ...

My greatest strength is ...

One thing in my life I want to change is ...