

## Listening carefully

DURATION: 30-60 minutes

AGES: Participants aged eight and up (NOTE: The observation guide questions can be adapted for younger ages by simplifying language)

OBJECTIVES: To improve philosophical inquiry skills by practicing attentive listening and observation

### STEPS:

1. Divide the participants into two groups: one half will do the inquiry dialogue, the other half will watch the dialogue and take notes, using the observation guide. (This approach is often called a fishbowl inquiry.) Give the group of “observer” participants a copy of the chart below, encouraging them to keep track of key moments during the dialogue. (Use the glossary tool to explain the various inquiry elements.)
2. Sit the dialoguing participants in a circle and proceed with a philosophical inquiry on a topic of their choice. Meanwhile, invite the observer participants to quietly fill out their observation guide.
3. Following the dialogue, ask the observer participants to share what they wrote down in their observation guide. Help them to compare and contrast their answers.
4. Based on the key observations, get the participants to determine as a whole group what they need to work on and then give them some time to develop their own strategies for improvement.

### OBSERVATION GUIDE CHART:

OBSERVATION GUIDE	
During the dialogue, find evidence of...	
<p>A good reason...</p>    <p>How did it help the dialogue?</p>	<p>Who said it?</p>
<p>A useful example or counter-example...</p>    <p>How did it help the dialogue?</p>	<p>Who said it?</p>
<p>A helpful definition or criterion...</p>    <p>How did it help the dialogue?</p>	<p>Who said it?</p>