

**CAN WE CHANGE THE WORLD
THROUGH BETTER CONVERSATION?**

WE BELIEVE WE CAN.

**ASK BIG
QUESTIONS**

WHY ASK BIG QUESTIONS?

Living together—in a relationship, in a community, on a campus, on a planet—requires the ability to trust. Trust requires understanding. Understanding requires listening—to ourselves and to each other.

Our future depends on our ability to trust people. At Ask Big Questions, we're shaping a future where campuses and communities are places of trust and understanding, where we learn to live together through conversations about questions we all share.

Learning to understand others and understand ourselves, learning to trust the people in our communities, learning to listen and talk face to face, without a device in the middle—these things are not luxuries. They are necessities.

Can we change the world through better conversation? We believe we must.



WHAT WE DO

Ask Big Questions helps colleges, universities, and organizations engage young adults in reflective conversations about purpose, identity, and responsibility. These conversations build trust, strengthen community, and deepen understanding across lines of difference.



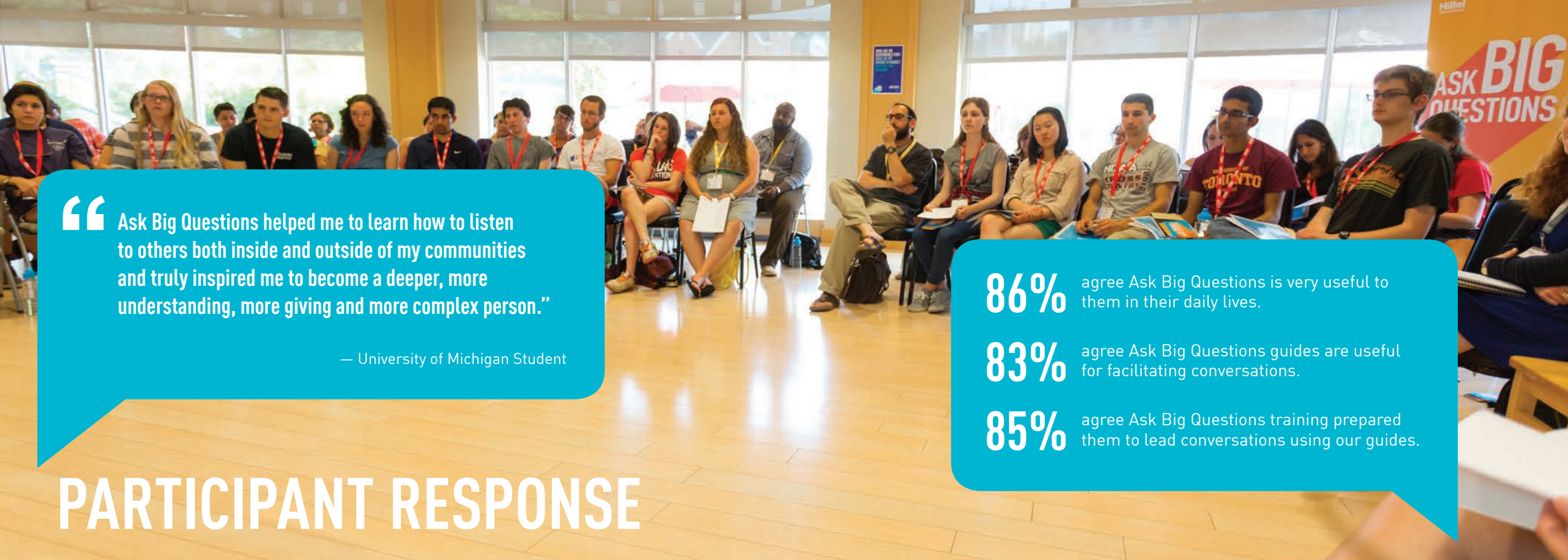
**We train
student leaders**



**to lead reflective
conversations**



**to transform
communities**



“ Ask Big Questions helped me to learn how to listen to others both inside and outside of my communities and truly inspired me to become a deeper, more understanding, more giving and more complex person.”

— University of Michigan Student

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE

86% agree Ask Big Questions is very useful to them in their daily lives.

83% agree Ask Big Questions guides are useful for facilitating conversations.

85% agree Ask Big Questions training prepared them to lead conversations using our guides.

WORKSHOPS

We believe good leaders help others reflect deeply and communicate openly with one another. We teach facilitation and dialogue as leadership skills that can be learned and practiced. Ask Big Questions workshops equip students and staff to host conversations characterized by trust, respect, and deep listening.

Our interactive, hands-on approach empowers participants to use our tools and techniques in their work and lives.

Workshops are available in half-day and full-day offerings and are appropriate for students, faculty, or staff.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP

Introduction to Big Questions

How can we change the world through conversation? Participants examine a Big Question together and learn to apply our core ideas in a variety of settings on campus.

FULL-DAY WORKSHOPS

Why Is Everyone Yelling? Facilitating Meaningful Exchanges & Navigating Conflict

How do you foster meaningful group conversation? What do you do if a meeting turns into a fight? This hands-on workshop focuses on the techniques, tactics, and tools needed to manage dialogue and effectively respond to conflict in small group setting.

What Are We Doing Here Anyway? Creating Richer Conversations Through Big Questions

How do you lead a discussion that doesn't turn into a lecture or a heated debate? This workshop teaches participants to use Big Questions to address campus issues and to build communities of trust through discussion and reflection.



Ask Big Questions Partner Programs focus on our three core program areas: Residential Life; Service Learning; and Career, Purpose, and Vocation. These high impact partnerships are jointly managed by Ask Big Questions and campus staff to infuse our model of reflective conversation into existing campus programs. Partnerships include training, curriculum libraries, ongoing support, and robust assessment that can dovetail with campus assessment efforts.

Our partner programs launch with a one or two-day training to equip students and staff with the skills and practice to effectively use our materials and methodology.

PARTNER PROGRAMS

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OPENING SESSION

Building Community Through Reflective Conversation

This opening module introduces the core concepts at the heart of our program: big questions, shared experiences, and reflective conversations. Participants experience our methodology firsthand and explore the role of a good facilitator in a group conversation.

ONE-DAY PROGRAM AFTERNOON SESSION OPTIONS

How Can We Transform Campus Conversations?

Participants learn to create reflective conversation spaces framed around Big Questions. This training empowers participants to build communities through shared experiences, to craft a Big Question from a pressing issue, and to utilize key facilitation methods including planning, timekeeping and feedback.

How Can Big Questions Lead to Action?

Participants are trained to use the Ask Big Questions curriculum to engage student populations around specific issues and build community by increasing access to reflective space. This workshop is designed to utilize our library of conversation guides and other resources.

TWO-DAY PROGRAM ADDITIONAL SESSION

Our Two-Day Program includes all four sessions, allowing for the widest breadth of skill development.

How Do We Lead Difficult Conversations?

Participants take on the task of leading and navigating conversations and tackling tough issues with their peers. This workshop focuses on each facilitator's individual strengths and on techniques, tactics, and tools to manage dialogue and respond to conflict.

TO ORDER
MATERIALS VISIT
[ASKBIGQUESTIONS.ORG](https://askbigquestions.org)

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Question Booklets

Our most popular item! 8 Big Questions to help students connect and start meaningful conversations. A great giveaway for first-year students, our series of booklets can be customized for your campus.

Social Media Assets

Bring Big Questions to digital spaces on campus with visual materials designed for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Campaign Tool Kits

Question campaigns are a high-visibility, less formal way to engage students in conversation. Our kits can include interactive, eye-catching elements like banners, pop-up conversation booths, and ball pits.



OUR TEAM

ADVISORY BOARD

Eboo Patel
Founder and President, Interfaith Youth Core

"I am a great admirer of the way Ask Big Questions helps students of all backgrounds to reflect together on questions we all share, and to build community by engaging our diversity. Ask Big Questions and IFYC share a common mission, and I am proud to call ABQ a partner."

Sharon Daloz Parks
Director, Leadership for the New Commons

"Our colleges and universities are essential training grounds for young adults to enter into their lives as citizens. But they often need help to do that work. Ask Big Questions is an outstanding initiative to aid colleges and universities do their transformative work."

Parker Palmer
Founder and Senior Partner, Center for Courage and Renewal

"Ask Big Questions is doing vital work to help American colleges and universities restore the soul of higher education. Through community conversations about Big Questions, students develop the habits of the heart that can help renew campus life and our larger civic fabric."

ASK BIG QUESTIONS CO-FOUNDERS

Allie Gross
Investigative Reporter, Detroit Metro Times

Sheila Katz
Vice President, Hillel International

Lexie Komisar
Business Development Lead, IBM Watson

Burgwell Howard
Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, Yale University

Rev. J. Cody Nielsen
President, National Campus Ministries Association

Barbara Roswell
Professor of English, Goucher College

Jennifer Hoos Rothberg
Executive Director, Einhorn Family Charitable Trust

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
Former Chief Rabbi, United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

Marci Sternheim
Former Executive Director, The Dibner Fund

AUGUST 2014

The New York Times

“ Ask Big Questions helps students discover how to establish a foundation of trust and confidentiality in a group, invite contributions from everyone, and guide others into deeper learning by interpreting the meaning of poems, text or images, reflecting on their lives and the implications for action.”

ASK **BIG**
QUESTIONS

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Ask Big Questions welcomes students of all backgrounds and political opinions. It was developed, launched, and scaled by Hillel International.
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