

Seven Questions to Ask Yourself Each Year

During facilitation, we all too often get caught up in questions that deal with the immediate and short-term outcomes of the course. Questions such as: “How long does this section last, and am I on time?” “What is a good question to ask given the comment that was just made?” “Is it better to intervene now or later?” “I’ve lost control of the discussion, so what do I ask to steer back to the objective of this section?”

But are there facilitation questions that are not immediate and short-term? And can they help us develop as facilitators while outside the classroom in the medium and long-term?

Courtney E. Martin has written an article containing seven questions that, adapted, can help us learn from our facilitation experience in 2017 and grow as facilitators in 2018. Why not ask yourself these questions at the beginning of each new year?

1. As a facilitator, what was one of the moments I was most proud of in 2017? What does that tell me about what I want to spend my energy on in 2018?
2. In 2017, who really enriched my facilitation skills in a big way? Who is someone I want to learn from in 2018?
3. 2017 was a year of resistance against discrimination of many kinds, including racism, sexism and islamophobia. What injustice did I resist most effectively? What did I surrender to? As a facilitator, how will my victories and defeats affect me in 2018?
4. Who did I feel most jealous of in 2017? What qualities about that person do I want to add to my facilitation skills in 2018?
5. When was I most happy in 2017? How can I appropriately express this happiness through my facilitation in 2018?
6. As a facilitator, what is one question I found myself asking over and over again in 2017? How do I answer this in 2018?
7. As a facilitator, what made me despair in 2017? What gives me hope as a facilitator for 2018?

You may want to look at Martin’s original article [Seven Questions to End 2017 with Clarity and Start 2018 with Intention](#) to see her reflections.