

Dignity Talk

Guidance for Facilitators

Preparing the Setting and Adopting the Right Attitude for a Dignity Talk

- Be mindful that you are entering, for a limited time, one of the most private and intimate spaces imaginable: the home and personal world of the person with whom you are about to speak. Approach this privilege with humility, respect, and gratitude.
 - Create a conversation setting that is protected from interruption. Allow both time and place to become separated from the demands of everyday life, creating a space in which thoughtful reflection and genuine human encounter can unfold.
 - Invite your conversation partner by presenting the covered memory box that safeguards the stories of their life. Allow the invitation itself to awaken curiosity, while conveying that the stories within belong entirely to them.
 - The box includes a small window that offers only a discreet glimpse of the treasured life stories it protects. The conversation cards rest upon a layer of felt, symbolising the warmth, comfort, and sustaining energy of life itself.¹
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- Once you or your conversation partner has removed the cards from the box, gently arrange them in a fan across the tablecloth or bedspread, allowing all themes to become visible without giving preference to any one of them.
 - Your conversation partner alone decides which question invites a story, and which questions they prefer to leave unanswered for the time being. Respect every choice without persuasion or expectation.
 - It is essential that you do not comment on the stories that are shared. Your role is not to interpret, evaluate, or direct the conversation, but to encourage it through attentive presence, gentle eye contact, and occasional words of affirmation.
 - Your conversation partner may share as many or as few stories as feel meaningful. If desired, you may arrange another meeting so that the conversation can continue at a later time.
 - No transcript or written record of the conversation is prepared. The conversation belongs to those who share it and should remain a protected personal encounter.
 - Please return the completed documentation form to: **hanke@praxishanke.de**

(1) Kolk K. Von der Wand in den Raum - Das Material Filz im Werk von Joseph Beuys. Inauguraldissertation im Fachbereich Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität. Frankfurt 2018.