



Mediator Peer Consultation

A VACCR - VMN Joint Project

"Come, Learn, and Grow"

How to Prepare for a Peer Consultation Session

Peer consultation sessions are meant to be collegial and informal. Discussions are with a group of peers who are deepening their personal understanding of mediation. The emphasis is on individual learning.

To make the most of this experience, you will want to focus your thoughts on a specific critical moment that occurred in a mediation session. Use this moment to answer the questions below. Then, bring this form, with your notes, to the peer consultation session as your own personal resource.

Critical moments are times when the mediator sees an opportunity to intervene - to ask a question, remain silent, invite a caucus, or in other ways employ a technique or skill that seems likely to help the parties achieve their desired outcome.

1. What was the critical moment?
2. What was going on at that moment?
3. What were you thinking at the time about the conflict and your intervention?
4. Describe the intervention. What did you do? Were there alternatives you considered?
5. Explain your thinking - "What was your intention in taking this step?"
6. Identify the goal of the intervention - "What did you anticipate would happen?"
7. How did this intervention fit with your beliefs about the role of a mediator and the goals of mediation - was the intervention consistent with those beliefs?
8. Did the intervention have its intended effect - did the participants respond as you predicted?
9. What have you learned from this critical moment?