

International Ask a Question Day

Become an Outstanding Question Asker

The goal of International Ask a Question Day is for people to benefit from asking more and better questions. Everyone asks questions; few people *use* them powerfully or as successfully as they could. Read over the Top 12 Reasons to Ask Questions and try to imagine being successful in any of these areas *without* asking questions of yourself or others!

Top 12 Reasons to Ask Questions

Gather information	Build and maintain relationships
Learn and teach	Reflect and build awareness
Think clearly, critically, strategically	Solve problems and make decisions
Challenge assumptions	Set and accomplish goals
Clarify and confirm listening	Negotiate and resolve conflicts
Catalyze productive conversation	Create and innovate new possibilities

It takes awareness and practice to become an outstanding question asker. Below are 5 ideas that can help you build that skill.

- Every day pick one category from the Top 12 Reasons to Ask Questions.
 - Ask someone a question related to that category
 - Ask yourself a question related to that category
 - Keep a journal of what you notice and learn.
- Before you ask someone *else* a question, ask *yourself*, "What do I want my question to accomplish?"
- In a journal, ask yourself and then answer:
 - What is the best and worst thing that happened today?
 - What can I learn from each?
 - Write down what you discover from asking yourself those questions.
- Build your "curiosity muscle" by asking yourself and others about assumptions that may be present in either personal or professional situations.
- Remember that "a question can be an invitation, a request, or a missile." Ask yourself, "What impact do I want *my* questions to have?"