



True or false?

Creating free space is one thing, maintaining it is another. When one sits together, it is so tempting to start doing something useful: solve a problem, conclude a discussion, move to the next point on the agenda. One way of dealing with this temptation is to start an inquiry into thoughts and approaches which are not related at all to what is on the agenda. We all know that at unexpected moments new ideas can arise.

This practical guide is an exercise in rhetorical playfulness and lightness. It aims at increasing your mental flexibility. You are challenged to discuss briefly a number of theses about 'us humans'. Enjoy!

Approach

1. Set some time aside, depending on the size of your group.
2. Choose one of the theses below.
3. Say what your first response is: is the thesis true or false?
4. What can be said in favour of the thesis?
5. What can be said against it?
6. Come to a joint answer: is the thesis true or false? Or does it need to be revised?
7. Keep it light and sparkling. See whether after about ten minutes you can move to another thesis and work along the same steps.
8. After you have discussed a few of the theses, reflect on the arguments pro and con. Are there arguments that support several theses? What does that tell you about your outlook on life?
9. Was it useful? Did something reveal that is useful in relation to the daily agenda you share with each other?

Theses

1. Lying is too important to abuse it.
2. Values need to be created, not to be passed on.
3. Ignorance is the root of all evil.
4. It is the mind that takes decisions, not the brain.
5. Whether you are free you can only determine in retrospect.
6. Be glad that you have your sombre moments.
7. Those who prefer to stand with both feet on the ground will make no progress.
8. Education is about prejudices, at a higher level.





Het Nieuwe Trivium - filosoferen in organisaties

9. A topic that does not tolerate parody is suspect.
10. The mind is the victim of the heart.
11. When one tries to look into the future, one actually looks in the mirror of the past.
12. Vices are a part of virtue, like poison is a part of medicine.
13. There are lies which are so close to the truth that it is wise to believe in them.
14. Nobody knows what he really wants.
15. Culture is what is left when you have nothing urgent to do.
16. You recognize somebody's character by his friends.
17. Who turns away from the public cause should not complain about bad governance.
18. You need to be mad, if you want to be wise on your own.

