## **Responding and interacting**

Responding and interacting requires you to participate in a group discussion. You must be able to share your opinion as well as respond to the opinion of others.

# **Questions**

An important part of your discussion work will be the ability to ask questions. This will not only help you to move the discussion forward but it will also give you an opportunity to pick up on specific things other group members have said, discover more about their opinion and respond in an in-depth manner to points they have made. It might seem like an easy part of the discussion but asking questions can be trickier than you think.

## **Open-ended and closed questions**

There are two different types of questions that can be asked. These are:

### **Open-ended questions**

Open-ended questions prompt your listener to answer in a much more detailed way. They cannot give a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer, but must be prepared to provide plenty of detail and give reasons for why they believe their opinion is the correct one.

### **Closed questions**

Closed questions are much simpler to ask but they are also much simpler to answer. They generally only require a one word response such as ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and will not provide you with any of the details you need to move the discussion forward.

You should avoid closed questions at all costs as they will not allow other group members to give you interesting answers. Here are some examples of closed questions:

* Do you like the colour blue?
* Do you think there is too much crime in Wales?
* What is the title of your favourite book?
* Do you think graffiti is wrong?

Here are examples of how you could ask the same questions in a more open-ended way that would require more detailed responses:

* Why do you like the colour blue?
* A recent newspaper report claimed that crime in Wales is on the rise. Why do you think this might be the case?
* Why is To Kill a Mockingbird your favourite book and can you also tell me something about your favourite character?
* Some people claim that graffiti is a legitimate form of street art. Do you agree with this and can you give your reasons why/why not?

### **Remember**

If you ask open-ended questions, you will be given more information to comment on. At the same time, if you are asked a question you must give as much detail as you can in your answer. Never just give a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer but give reasons for your opinion.