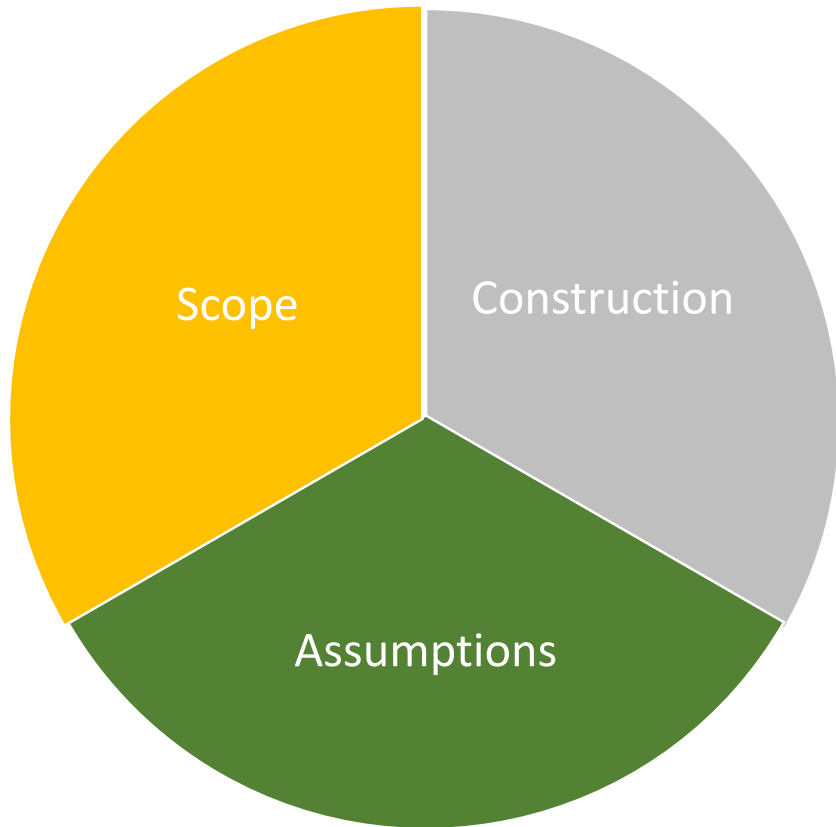


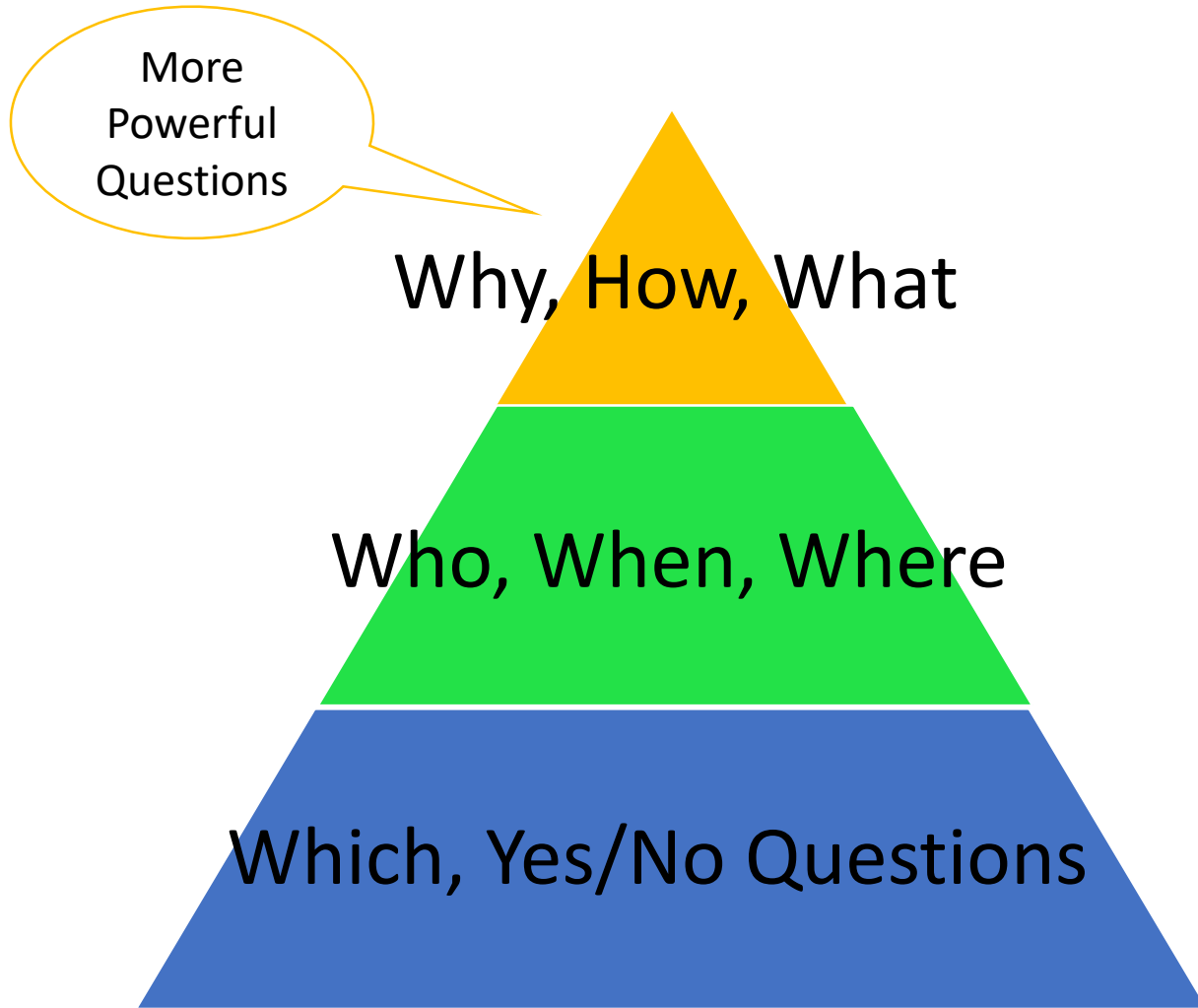
Architecture of Powerful Questions: 3 Dimensions



Thus, a powerful question:

- Generates curiosity in the listener
- Stimulates reflective conversation
- Is thought-provoking
- Surfaces underlying assumptions
- Invites creativity and new possibilities
- Generates energy and forward movement
- Channels attention and focuses inquiry
- Stays with participants
- Touches a deep meaning
- Evokes more questions

Dimension #1 of Powerful Questions: Construction

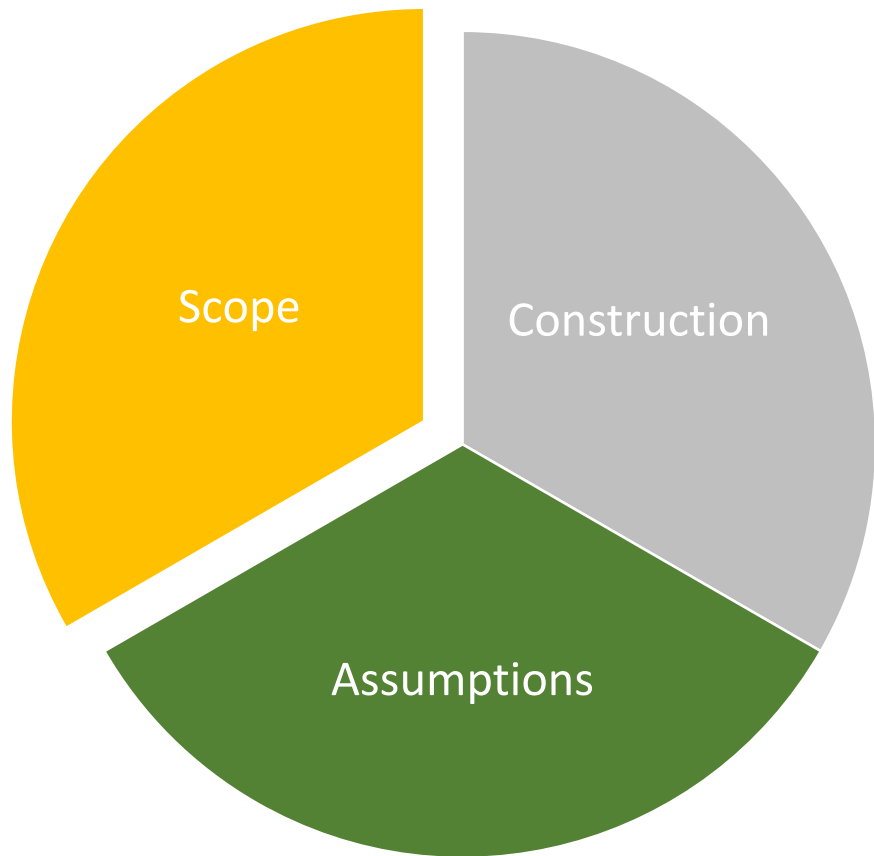


By using the words towards the top of the pyramid, we can make many of our questions more robust. They also help us dig deeper and broaden our curiosity.

Consider the following sequence:

- Are you satisfied with your working relationship?
- When have you been most satisfied with our working relationship?
- What is it about our working relationships that you find most satisfying?
- Why might it be that our working relationship has had its ups and downs?

Dimension #2 of Powerful Questions: **Scope**

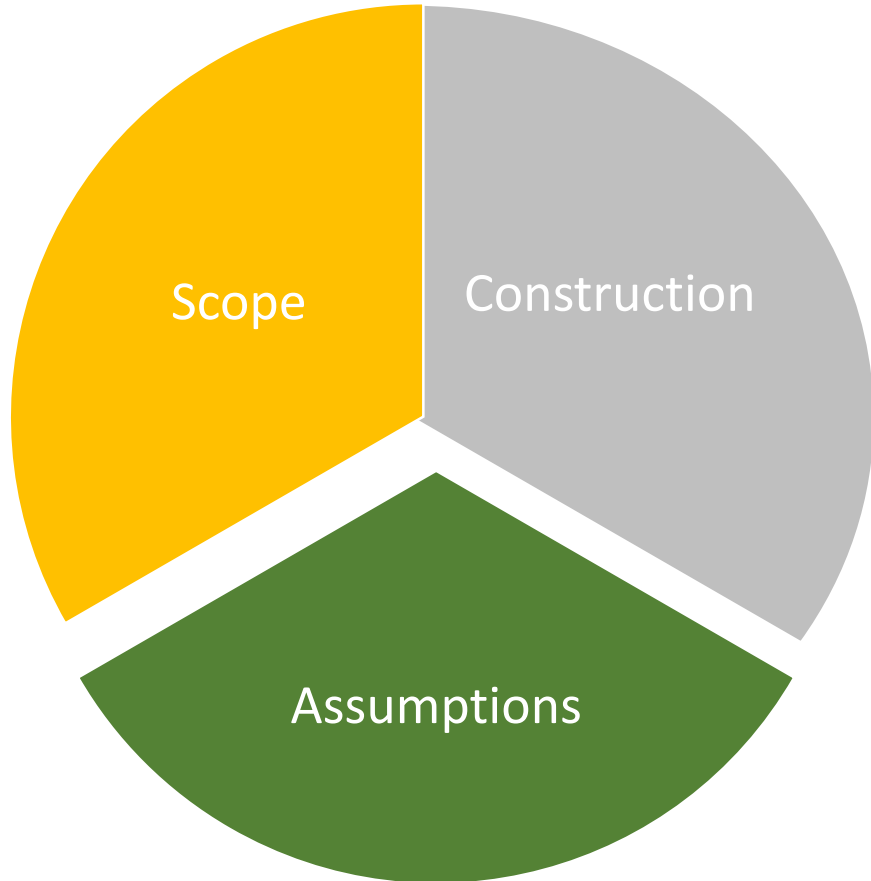


As you work to make your question powerful and effective, tailor and clarify the scope as precisely as possible to keep them within realistic boundaries of those involved in the exploration.

For example:

- How can we improve relationships among parents and children?
- How can we improve relationships in our clans?
- How can we improve relations in the Hmong community?

Dimension #3 of Powerful Questions: Assumption



Be aware of the implicit or explicit assumptions that are in our questions. They might not be shared by others involved in the exploration.

For example:

- “What did we do wrong and who is responsible?”
 - Assumes error and blame. This might distance some people from the conversation.
- “What can we learn from what’s happened and what possibilities do we now see?”
 - Encourages reflection and more likely to stimulate learning and collaboration among all those involved.

In formulating powerful questions, it’s important to be come aware of the assumptions and use them appropriately.