

What people have said about the Muse Menu of Conversation



“Rewarding, stimulating and demanding.” **Director, PriceWaterhouseCoopers**

“This is a useful tool for fostering conversation between strangers. It provides a structure for exchange between the two people involved that allows them to be reasonably open and trusting of each other. Without the menu it is very unlikely that either party would have been confident enough to raise most of the issues that ended up being discussed. It could be used to build relations between team members by building trust and understanding.” **General Manager, Ministry of Justice, New Zealand**

“I enjoyed very much this opportunity to open up my thoughts about several tender issues. I learned a lot. I feel very positive about what I transmitted and I think it will have a positive result on my personality and career development. I would use it to get to know my key employees a bit more.” **Vice-President Agrisal Group, El Salvador**

“Very learnful ... I'm thinking of introducing the menu widely into the top management of my firm.” **Vice Chairman EB/COO, ENECO Energie, Netherlands**

“A unique “Menu”, delicious and scrumptious. You are right. Conversation will be the glue that will bring the people across the globe closer together.” **Managing Director, Sales and Trading, Citygroup, South Africa**

“Very impressive. One possibility would be to use the “dinner idea” with internal departments.” **Deputy CEO, Chief Financial Officer, RWE Energy AG Germany**

“Very good prompt...has the potential to get people understanding each other and working together more co-

operatively.” **Director, Corporate and Civic Services, Waitakere City Council, NZ**

“Very interesting process. Thoroughly enjoyable way to promote conversation and discussion. I was surprised at how successful this was and how it leads onto other areas of discussion. Could be useful in hierarchical organisations for breaking down barriers and understanding others’ motivation.” **Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, National Health Service, Lothian, Scotland**

“This was a very stimulating exercise. I will test some of this with my colleagues.” **Executive Director for the European Commission at the EBRD, Brussels**

“The questions are quite thought provoking! Some of them were ones I have answered for the first time. Very good. I would like to use this format to let people get to know each other better. This would be of immense help.” **Managing Director, ERM India**

A wonderful opportunity to bring out inner feelings and let people open up and share. I would wish to get my staff to experience this; it would improve the team. **Principal, Makerere University Business School, Uganda**

“The questions are both provocative and evocative, and relentless. They do not allow you to escape with superficialities. They truly facilitate a meaningful exchange. Thank you!” **Deputy Secretary, Policy, Ministry of Maori Development, New Zealand**

“I feel restored somehow, as well as excited. It is a bit like stroking my dog Basil and flying at the same time. Perhaps even if you had a dictator down at the table he would have had to see the human beings in front of him.” **Managing Editor, Centre for Global Governance London School of Economics**

“Very different. Very enjoyable. Not as intimidating as it would seem, although you have to throw yourself into it to get the most value.” **Executive, KPMG**

“I think it's a fantastic forum for getting strangers to talk to each other and would like to see it extended into many different scenarios and settings, with the most heterogeneous populations.” **Director, Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London**

“I'm amazed at the frankness with which people were saying things to each other within minutes.” **Chief Executive, Business in the Community UK**

“Absolutely wonderful! I do not remember when was the last time I had this kind of conversation with anyone.” **Manager, Asian Cultural Centre, Oxford City Council**

“Everybody really enjoyed it, the feedback from the attendees was fantastic.” **Assistant Manager, Novotel Hotel, West London**

“I really enjoyed the experience.. The Menu is a fantastic idea. I enjoyed meeting, talking to, and listening to my conversational partner and she has restored my faith in younger people and the tolerance of different people in the world.” **Regional Deputy Secretary, Communication Workers Union**

“Thought-provoking and inspiring. I sat next to a colleague. I’ve known him for twenty years on and off but I found out more tonight from speaking to him than I did in 20 years of working near to him and passing him by.” **Chief Superintendent, West Yorkshire Police**

“I have tagged these [Muse questions] on at the end of the formal interview when people are most relaxed, feel that the interview is drawing to a close, and have developed some kind of relationship with the interviewer. I try to use them to see how they see other people, how they see different situations - this helps me determine whether I think they will be a good team player, be flexible, be innovative etc.” **Business Planning Manager, multinational computer firm, Munich, Germany**

“While I learned much about my colleague, I learned even more about myself. She helped me reveal more about myself that can prove helpful for me.” **CEO, GSM Association, UK**

What people have said about Muse Portraits

“I am really glad I wrote it because not only will it teach other people things about me but it taught me, or at least made me remember, some important things too.” **Lawyer (trainee)**

“I think that people responded very positively to my portrait and were very touched by it. I got an email from a colleague that I used to work with and she was really touched by it and said that she hadn't realised how much we had in common and was really keen for us to meet up and have a chat! It gave people a real insight to who I am and I had such warmth in reaction to my portrait.” **Overseas Development Worker, Kenya**

“The best thing that “A” said to me about his portrait was that it expressed things his thoughts on paper, which he has never been able to do before because of his dyslexia. I also find it easier to express myself in writing than I do in conversation, so it's a great way to communicate with people about who you are. Putting things in writing requires more thought than the usual sort of self-conscious introspection. It is more useful in a way because one has to rationalize and order one's emotions. I'm looking forward to going home for Christmas because my father wants to take me out for a meal - just the two of us - to talk about some things in my portrait. I would like all my family to write one and to share it with the rest of us. It would stimulate the sort of conversations that don't usually happen unless something has gone badly wrong.” **Literary Critic**

“The questions were incredible. They made me really examine who I am. They made me think about my family in a whole new light, and maybe the benefits to that are not immediately apparent. But it helps you understand who you are and why you act in certain ways, what your priorities are, why you might not be happy in your current position in the world and what you potentially could do to change that. It's really made me think about my job, and what I've done by coming over here and how I treat my friends, how I look at myself, what will make me ultimately happy in the end.” **Editor, Oxford University Press**

