Powerful Questions
Workshop for Agile Coaches

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Benefits of Questions
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http://kl.la/agile2016-pqw
Closed Questions

Turn the following closed questions into open questions.

Could there be any other ways to improve the quality of your code?

Do you incorporate testing as part of the Sprint?

Can you realistically start doing continuous delivery?
Solution-oriented Questions

Avoid the following solution-oriented questions.

Shouldn't you check with the Product Owner before altering the backlog?

Don't you think that having a vision would benefit the team in making decisions?

Could you use the review meeting to raise awareness about the slow turnaround?
One True Question
Other ways to avoid looking for the one true question.

Tell me more.

You mentioned that ………………. . Expand on that.

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You're coaching a team that consistently falls short of its Sprint goal and carries work forward. The team questions the benefits of the Agile process. The team has not had any formal training or coaching. You attend a daily standup meeting to start understanding the situation. The meeting takes around 30 minutes and includes 20 people sitting in various locations, some near and some distant. They converse via a telephone conference line. It appears that all eyes are focused on a time tracking tool that includes burn up and burn down charts. Two voices dominate the call: the project manager and the Agile founder. Each team member answers the question: “What did you work on since the last meeting?” This information may or may not have been entered into the tracking tool. If not, the leaders remind the team members that they must do this. The leaders also quiz each member on how their time was spent, if the work is fitting into the estimate and if not, why not. There is little talking between team members on the call.

Look at your learning buddy, he's the manager that hired you as a coach.

Make him a single, concrete question.
Conclusion

What are the most important concepts I just learned?

What are my feelings about them?

What new actions are possible for me after this workshop?
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