

Problem Solving from Beginner to Expert

No Shouting Required

PRAIRIE DEV CON

WEB | DEV | CLOUD | AI



Ashleigh Lodge

Leader, Product Team
(Dev, UX, QA)

Neovation Learning Solutions

[@ashleighlodge.ca](#)

[Linktree](#)

[ashleighlodge.ca](#)











CHANGE IS CONSTANT



ADAPT YOU MUST

Stage 1:

HALP!!

Stage 2:

Halp?

Stage 3:

I got this!

What's your/your team's stage?

- Stage 1: new job, role, company?
- Stage 2: solve some, sometimes
- Stage 3: no problems when solving problems

Stage 1: HALP!



Stage 1: HALP!

Confidence +2

Confidence Boosters

Provide resources

Confidence Boosters

Set

expectations

Confidence Boosters

Use timeboxing

Confidence Boosters

Find the right
question(s)

Stage 1: HALP!

**The right
question(s)**

The right question(s)
Ten thousand

I TRY NOT TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE FOR ADMITTING THEY DON'T KNOW THINGS.

BECAUSE FOR EACH THING "EVERYONE KNOWS" BY THE TIME THEY'RE ADULTS, EVERY DAY THERE ARE, ON AVERAGE, 10,000 PEOPLE IN THE US HEARING ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

FRACTION WHO HAVE HEARD OF IT AT BIRTH = 0%

FRACTION WHO HAVE HEARD OF IT BY 30 $\approx 100\%$

US BIRTH RATE $\approx 4,000,000/\text{year}$

NUMBER HEARING ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME $\approx 10,000/\text{day}$

IF I MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE, I TRAIN THEM NOT TO TELL ME WHEN THEY HAVE THOSE MOMENTS. AND I MISS OUT ON THE FUN.

"DIET COKE AND MENTOS THING"? WHAT'S THAT?

OH MAN! COME ON, WE'RE GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE.

WHY?

YOU'RE ONE OF TODAY'S LUCKY 10,000.



<https://xkcd.com/1053>

The right question(s)

What you know

The right question(s)

- **Easy, or difficult?**
- **History & decisions**
- **What if?**

Stage 2: Halp?



Stage 2.1: Halp?

Fix it for me

Stage 2.1: Halp?

Question vs question

Fix it for me

**What have you
tried?**

Fix it for me

**Who have you
asked?**

Fix it for me

**Which documents
did you read?**



Stage 2.2: Halp?

Info Firehose

Info Firehose

Yes or no questions

Info Firehose

**Share what you
know**

Info Firehose

Interrupt & refocus

Info Firehose

Keep questioning

Info Firehose

Time for a pause

Info Firehose

Confidence +4

Stage 2: Halp?

The right answers

The right answers
Short & relevant,
upfront

The right answers
Assumptions kill

Stage 3: I got this!



Stage 3: I got this!

Focused & ready

Stage 3: I got this!

End of the line

Stage 3: I got this!

Switch it up

Switch it up

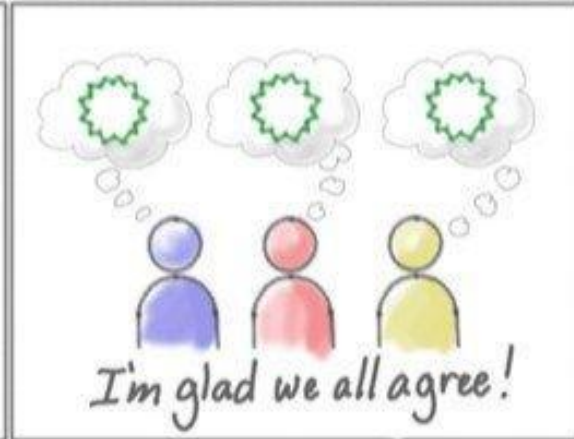
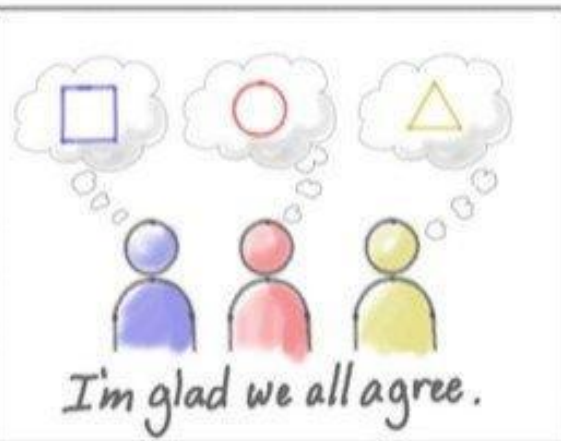
**Meet people
where they are**

Switch it up

**Show them
the way**

Switch it up

**Ask the obvious
question**





WE GOT THIS TEAM!!

makeameme.org

Resources

- Asking good questions is hard (but worth it) by Julia Evans
- Asking questions is a superpower by Julia Evans
- How to get useful answers to your questions by Julia Evans
- How to answer questions in a helpful way by Julia Evans
- Rubber duck debugging from Wikipedia

AMA!



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