

People Puff Politics: Blazing Insights

Session 2: Unlocking the Mind Matrix

August 16, 2024

[PowerPoint](#)

Goal: Empower people to critically understand their philosophical beliefs, origins, and how they inform their political views. Encourage self-reflection, dialogue, and the evolution of beliefs through new information.

Session 2: Why do people believe what they do? Unlocking the Mind Matrix

By the end of this sesh, stoners today will...

- Define philosophy.
- Identify personal beliefs and their philosophical underpinnings.
- Discuss philosophical and political ideas with each other.

Opening: One word for each that comes to mind when mentioning “philosophy” and “politics.”

Group activity:

1. Organize into groups of 2 or 3 and choose 1-2 questions per section to discuss.
2. Decide who will share a summary of what was discussed to the main group. (Also share which question was most impactful to each of you)

Solo Journaling Activity: Take a moment to keep these questions and use them as a tool to journal about them and to think deeper when you have a chance. We will be using these questions throughout our conversations 

Exploring Human Nature

1. What do you believe is the nature of humans—are we inherently good, bad, or neutral? Why do you think that?
2. Which concept do you believe in? Is our behavior dominated by nature (DNA and biology)? Or is our behavior dominated by nurture (how we are raised, our education, systems we live in)

Human Motivation and Behavior

3. What do you think are the primary motivations behind human actions—survival, love, power, or something else?

Examining the Influence of Beliefs on Your Worldview

4. In what ways have your experiences shaped your views on humanity?

5. Have any specific events or relationships significantly changed your perspective?

Exploring Early Influences

6. What are some of your earliest memories related to your beliefs today? How did those experiences shape your current views?
7. Who were the most influential figures in your childhood (parents, teachers, religious leaders)? How did they shape your beliefs and perceptions?
8. How did your family's values and traditions influence your understanding of the world? Do you still align with those values? Why or why not?

Reflecting on Personal Experiences

9. What significant life events (e.g., relationships, successes, failures) have most impacted your beliefs? How did they change or reinforce your perceptions?
 - a. How did these life events shape your political beliefs?
10. Should your political beliefs evolve over time as your philosophical understanding deepens, or should they remain consistent?

Exploring Political Beliefs

11. What do you believe the role of the government is or should be?
12. How do you decide which political issues are most important to you?
13. What does collective responsibility mean to you?
14. What is individual freedom?
15. Do you believe that social justice is more important than individual freedom, or vice versa? Why?