

The 5 Most Effective Questions to Use in Closing a New Consultant

You should have written out and committed to memory, the best closing questions that you've ever heard, because when you are closing a new consultant, you do not want to be stuck searching for the right thing to say. It is my strong recommendation that you ask questions. You can tell someone all the benefits of becoming a consultant and they can listen to you and nod their head and think to themselves, "O.K. but that's just your opinion."

They have not "bought in" to what you are saying. In order for them to "buy in" to a particular idea, they may have to hear the words in their own voice. So when you ask someone a question, and they answer it, they are hearing their own voice. And if they are answering the right question, they will convince themselves.

Here are five of the most effective closing questions you can ask. The first one is,

(1) If you don't become a consultant, where do you see yourself a year from now?

This is a powerful question because you are asking them to look at what their life will be like a year from now if they don't say yes to this opportunity. The second most effective question is,

(2) If you were to become a consultant today, what will be improved a year from now?

Now the wording in that question is very important. Notice that you didn't ask them what would be different; you asked what would be improved. You also used the word "will" instead of "would" which gives a sense of expectation.

When you ask closing questions you can, by your choice of question, direct the type of answer they will give you. For this question, they will tell you in their own voice, what will be better about their life a year from now if they become a consultant today. You're not telling them, they're telling you. And they know the answer. And they'll say it. And they'll hear the answer in their own voice. In the process of that, they will begin to convince themselves that this is what they want. The third most effective question to ask is,

(3) What qualities do you have that would make you shine as a consultant?

They've just told you how their life will be improved and now they are going to tell you why they'd be good at it. The fourth most effective question is,

(4) What are the two most important reasons for you to become a consultant today?

This is also a very powerful question, especially the use of the word "today" which adds a sense of urgency. Because you are asking them for

only two reasons, they will pick out the two most important things. It might be their family, or children, or finances, or because they don't want to work a job anymore. They're going to tell you now the two most important reasons why they need to become a consultant today. You see, you don't have to convince them if you ask them the right questions. They will convince themselves.

The last question is really a very interesting one, and somewhat tricky to understand.

(5) It does sound like you'd be an excellent consultant. Why don't you give it a try?

The reason that this question is so powerful is because when they think about giving something a try, they believe that they have options, that they're just testing it out. They don't believe they are making a decision. In actuality, they are making a decision but it gives them the feeling of having an "out." That question, in exactly those words, "Why don't you give it a try?" will allow them to give themselves permission to say yes.