





## Questions Open - Ended Closed - Ended • Who • Do Are • What • Is When Will Where • Can • Should • How Would • Why • Could

Ladder of Inference

I take ACTIONS based on my beliefs

I adopt BELIEFS about people and the world

I draw CONCLUSIONS based on the story in my head

I make ASSUMPTIONS
I add MEANINGS (cultural and personal)

I select "data" from what I observe

OBSERVABLE "DATA" AND EXPERIENCES

(as a videotape recorder might capture it)

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## **Checking Inferences**

- 1. Recognize that you are operating off an opinion and attributing motives or labels to the other's behavior.
- 2. Are you describing the issue/person with adjectives or facts?
  Play by Play Announcer = Facts; Color Commentary = Opinion
- Specifically describe the behavior/comment that has led you to make the inference. Share the inference at the lowest level and ask for the other person's perspective.

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