**Handout #4: Types of Question Forms**

**Question Types**: The kinds of linguistic expressions used to make a request for information which most often include open-ended, semi-open, or closed.

1. **Open questions** are WH questions that do not restrict the content included in the response.

Q. Why was it important to join the organization?

A. Because only members were allowed to vote on critical issues.

2. **Semi-open questions** are similar to a yes/no form of a question in that they have a specific and brief answer that can be predetermined. They can also come in the form of a yes/no question. When they are posed in the form of a yes/no question, they are typically followed by another semi-open question.

**Example 1:**

Q. When did you join the organization?

A. In April of 1972.

Q. Do you know how many people belong to the organization?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people belong to the organization?

A. About 7,500.

**Example 2:**

Q. With respect to the young man, where was he when you first observed him?

A. Lying face down on the bed.

3. **Closed questions** are those that intend a response that is restricted to yes or no.

Q. And, did he appear to you to be deceased?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you check for a pulse?

A. No, I did not.

**4. Disjunctive Questions** are those that intend the answer to be restricted to two choices, both explicitly present in the question.

Q. Who was closer to the door that you entered—the young man or the young lady?

A.. The young lady.

Q. Who called 911—you or Anthony?

A. I did.

5. **Leading questions** suggests there is only one correct answer, and in essence tries to ‘lead’ the witness to that answer. There are three common forms—negative yes/no question, making a statement followed by a tag, or making a statement with question intonation.

Q. Didn’t you go to a bar that night? (negative yes/no question)

A. Yes.

Q. You went to Gino’s Bar that night, didn’t you? (statement w/ tag)

A. Yes.

Q. You stayed until the bar closed that night, isn’t that correct? (statement w/tag)

A. Yes, I guess so.

Q. It is true, isn’t it, that you talked with Coral that night? (statement w/ tag)

A. For a little while, yes.

Q. You talked with Carlos that night? (statement w/ question intonation)

A. No, he wasn’t there.