

Moderator Guide for AIAN Enrollment Question Research

INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)

GREETING:

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is _____ and I am your moderator today. We will be here for about two hours. The purpose of our group is to talk about the relationships and memberships you may have with American Indian or Alaska Native tribes. The Census Bureau is interested in learning about how you think about these relationships and memberships as part of our effort to develop a new question for the 2020 Census.

SELF-DISCLOSURE:

I'm a researcher at the Census Bureau. My job is to improve the collection of census data from a wide variety of people and groups by coming out to talk with them. By asking questions and listening, I can help the decision makers hear the voices of respondents like you and apply that information to improve the census.

I am very interested in hearing your thoughts and opinions on your relationships and memberships with American Indian or Alaska Native tribes. I will ask you some questions about how you define some terms. It's likely that you may have different ways of looking at some concepts and I would like us to discuss similarities and differences, as well as any other terms you may use.

There are no wrong answers to these questions. Feel free to make any positive or negative comments about any of the things you discuss today. We are aiming for each of you to be heard and it is okay if people do not agree. We do not need to reach consensus. To moderate this discussion, I will be looking at each of you. I recognize this may be somewhat outside how you may talk with others and I hope you will help me with this. If I

happen to say something that is not appropriate about American Indians or Alaska Natives, let me know and I will correct myself.

GROUND RULES:

For those who have never been in a room like this, let me tell you something about it. There are many rooms like this around the country. They have equipment for tape recording and for video-recording, so that an accurate report can be written later. This room has a one-way mirror and other research team colleagues will be observing and listening from the back room. The observers and I have been sworn to protect your confidentiality. Only those who work on this project and have been sworn to protect your confidentiality may view or listen to the recordings of this group.

So that the conversation flows smoothly, I have the following ground rules, so we will all move together in the same direction and to make sure we will end on time.

[ALSO PASS THESE GROUND RULES OUT BEFORE THE FOCUS GROUP SESSION STARTS]

- Please talk one at a time
- Please talk as loudly as I talk, so everyone can hear
- Avoid side conversation with your neighbor
- I want to hear from everyone; however, you do not have to answer all questions
- It's okay to respond to each other or piggyback on what others have said
- Work for equal time so no one talks too much or too little
- There are no wrong answers and we are not aiming for consensus
- Say what you believe, whether or not anyone agrees with you; diversity of opinions is fine
- Only one person up from the table or out of the room at a time. The restrooms are [SAY RESTROOM LOCATION HERE].

- To get through all the material and finish on time, I may need to redirect the conversation at times.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS: Please introduce yourself to the group and tell us:

- Your first name
- Where you live
- What you enjoy doing in your free time

Who would like to start? [LET RESPONDENTS SPEAK IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE COMFORTABLE]

Before we begin, are there any questions?

PART A: BASELINE ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION ON
TRIBE/VILLAGE/CORPORATION REPORTING
(15 MINUTES)

I am going to pass out a form now and when you receive one, write your first name or initials on the upper right side of form. Then please read the question and write down your answer. [PASS OUT THE FORM. PROCEED WHEN EACH PERSON HAS ONE.]

We want to know what each of you thinks on your own, so please answer this form without checking to see how anyone else is answering. [WAIT TWO MINUTES FOR RESPONDENTS TO GIVE AN ANSWER. IF ANYONE IS STILL NOT FINISHED, LET RESPONDENTS KNOW THEY HAVE ABOUT 15 MORE SECONDS TO GIVE AN ANSWER.]

On this form, there is an instruction on the American Indian or Alaska Native line for you to print an answer.

1.0 Now I'd like to hear from each person what you wrote, if anything, on the line for the American Indian or Alaska Native checkbox. I'd also like to know if you wrote anything related to being American Indian or Alaska

Native on any of the other race category lines. Finally, please tell me the reasons for how you answered. We'll go around the room, starting to my right. [AS MODERATOR, YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO LET RESPONDENTS SPEAK IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE COMFORTABLE.]

[IF RESPONDENTS GIVE COMMENTS ON AIAN RACE CATEGORY EXAMPLES, PROBE RESPONDENTS AND ALLOW A SHORT DISCUSSION]

PART B: DISCUSSION ON TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP AND ENROLLMENT

(40 MINUTES)

1.0 Now the discussion will turn to the relationship you may have with a tribe. On Question 1 of your Focus Group Questions handout, please list the tribe or tribes you are associated with, and whether you are a member of that tribe or tribes. [WAIT TWO MINUTES FOR RESPONDENTS TO GIVE AN ANSWER. IF ANYONE IS STILL NOT FINISHED, LET RESPONDENTS KNOW THEY HAVE ABOUT 15 MORE SECONDS TO GIVE AN ANSWER.]

What tribe or tribes are you associated with? From now on, anyone can jump in and answer.

2.0 For those of you who are members, how did you become a member of that tribe?

3.0 For those of you who are not "members" of any tribe, how would you describe your relationship with the tribe or tribes you listed?

4.0 Please list the tribe or tribes in which you are enrolled for Question 2 of your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] For those of you who are members of a tribe, are you enrolled in that tribe?

5.0 Now please turn to Question 3 and answer this question in your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] To your knowledge, does an American Indian or Alaska Native need to be enrolled in a tribe to be considered a member of that tribe?

6.0 What does enrollment in an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe mean to you?

6.1 What do you think the difference is, if any, between being enrolled in a tribe and being a member of a tribe?

6.2 What are some other words you have used or heard being used to describe being part of a tribe other than “member” or “enrolled?” [PROBE ON THE MEANINGS OF ALL TERMS THAT RESPONDENTS NAME.]

6.2.1 [ASK IF “REGISTERED” IS NOT NAMED.] What about the word “registered?” Have you ever heard that word used to describe being part of a tribe?

6.2.1.1 [ASK IF NEEDED.] What does “registered” mean when talking about being part of a tribe?

6.2.2 [ASK IF “DESCENDANT” IS NOT NAMED] What about the word “descendant?” Have you ever heard that word used to describe being part of a tribe?

6.2.2.1 [ASK IF NEEDED.] What does “descendant” mean when talking about being part of a tribe?

7.0 [ASK ONLY IN FOCUS GROUPS WITH ALASKA NATIVE RESPONDENTS.] So far we have used the word “tribe” when talking about Alaska Native ethnic groups. What does the word “tribe” mean to you?

7.1 Is the term “tribe” appropriate to apply to most Alaska Natives? For what reasons?

7.2 What other terms are similar to, but might be more appropriate, than “tribe” to describe Alaska Native ethnic groups? For what reasons? [IF THE FOCUS GROUP AGREES THAT A NEW TERM IS BETTER, CONSIDER SUBSTITUTING THAT TERM FOR “TRIBE” FOR THE REST OF THE DISCUSSION.]

8.0 What are the specific requirements, if any, to be eligible to enroll in your tribe? [IF REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED, PREFACE WITH “BESIDES THE REQUIREMENTS ALREADY MENTIONED”.]

8.1 What about BIA cards? Is getting a BIA card necessary for enrollment, or is it possible to enroll without one?

8.2 What are some of the reasons why some people who apply for enrollment might not be accepted?

8.2.1 Are these reasons the same across tribes?

8.3 What are the benefits of being enrolled in your tribe?

8.4 What are the responsibilities of being enrolled in your tribe?

9.0 Once a person is enrolled in your tribe, are there circumstances in which someone’s enrollment status might change?

9.1 If yes, what would those circumstances be?

9.2 In your opinion, how often do enrolled people in your tribe become dis-enrolled, either by themselves or by your tribe?

9.3 Can people who are dis-enrolled from your tribe later re-enroll in your tribe?

9.4 Are people who are dis-enrolled still considered members of that tribe or affiliated with that tribe?

10.0 Can American Indians or Alaska Natives be enrolled in more than one tribe?

11.0 Is there just one level of enrollment status or are there different levels of enrollment? If yes, please explain.

PART C: CENSUS BUREAU DATA COLLECTION ON TRIBAL ENROLLMENT
(55 MINUTES)

1.0 Please answer Question 4 on your Focus Group Questions Handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] As you know, the Census Bureau collects American Indian and Alaska Native tribal information. Do you think the Census Bureau should ask American Indians and Alaska Natives whether they are enrolled in a tribe?

[MODERATOR: WRITE OUT THEIR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON AN EASEL.]

1.1 Let's talk about the reasons why the Census Bureau should or shouldn't ask a tribal enrollment question. First, what are some reasons you think the Census Bureau should ask for tribal enrollment? [WRITE EVERYONE'S ANSWERS UNDER THE HEADING "PROS."]

1.2 What are some reasons you think the Census Bureau should not ask for tribal enrollment? [WRITE EVERYONE'S ANSWERS UNDER THE HEADING "CONS."]

1.3 Did anyone go back and forth on choosing whether the Census Bureau should ask a tribal enrollment question?

1.3.1 (If yes) For what reasons were you undecided? [MAKE SURE TO GET EVERYONE'S REASONS.]

2.0 How important is it TO YOU to be able to mark on the 2020 Census form whether you are enrolled in a tribe? For what reasons?

3.0 How important is it TO YOUR TRIBE for you to be able to mark on your census form whether you are enrolled or not enrolled in that tribe? For what reasons?

4.0 Suppose that the Census Bureau's number of persons enrolled in your tribe is different than the tribe's number of enrolled. What would you think if the Census Bureau's enrollment count of your tribe were considerably higher than your tribe's own records?

4.1 On the other hand, what would you think if the Census Bureau's enrollment counts of your tribe were considerably lower than your tribe's own records?

5.0 What would you think if the Census Bureau asked to see the tribes' own enrollment lists to check how well a new census question worked in counting the enrolled population?

Please turn to Question 5 of your Focus Group Questions Handout. This page has the same race or origin question that you filled out earlier.

Imagine that you got this form at home, and it had a race question with this American Indian or Alaska Native checkbox and this write-in instruction [POINT TO THESE FEATURES]. However, it is missing a question that asks whether the person is enrolled in a tribe. What would be the best way to ask this question? What words would you use that best make sense for you or your tribe? You can come up with any kind of wording you think is best. If you wish, you can use a combination of questions to ask about enrollment, or you can also add additional questions after the race question. You can also come up with more than one way to ask this question. There are no wrong answers.

Please respond to Question 5 and then write an enrollment question or questions that best asks whether a person is enrolled in a tribe. You can write your question or questions anywhere on the page. We want to know what each of you thinks independently, so please do this on your own without talking to anyone else or looking at anyone else's form. Go ahead and start. [WAIT 3 MINUTES FOR RESPONDENTS TO ANSWER. IF ANYONE IS STILL NOT FINISHED, LET RESPONDENTS KNOW THEY HAVE ABOUT 30 MORE SECONDS TO GIVE THEIR ANSWERS.]

For this exercise, I asked you to come up with written questions to ask whether an American Indian or Alaska Native person is enrolled in a tribe.

7.0 What question wordings did you come up with? [WRITE OUT THEIR WORDINGS ON AN EASEL.]

7.1 For what reasons did you use this (these) wording(s)?

7.2 [ASK IF MORE THAN ONE WORDING IS DISCUSSED] Of all the question wordings we have, which one do you think most clearly asks about your enrollment status? For what reasons? What are some potential problems with the way this question is worded?

7.2.1 Of all the question wordings we have, which one do you think would best measure enrollment for American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Census? For what reasons?

8.0 Please answer Question 6 in your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] Are you familiar with the term “federally recognized tribe?”

8.1 What does it mean for a tribe to be recognized by the federal government?

9.0 Please answer Question 7 in your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] Are you familiar with the term “state-recognized tribe?”

9.1 What does it mean for a tribe to be recognized by a state government?

10.0 Is there any term that you have used, or heard others used, to refer to tribes that are neither federally recognized nor state-recognized?

10.1 What does it mean for a tribe to not be recognized by either the federal government or any state government?

10.2 How would you suggest we refer to tribes that are neither federally recognized nor state-recognized?

11.0 What would you think if the Census Bureau asked on the census form if a person is enrolled in a federally recognized tribe?

11.1 For what reasons?

11.2 This is one of the ways we are thinking about asking this question for federally recognized tribes: “Are you enrolled in a federally recognized tribe?” Is this an appropriate way to ask the question?

11.2.1 For what reasons do you think this is an appropriate way?

11.2.2 For what reasons do you think this is not an appropriate way?

12.0 Please answer Question 9 of your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] Do you think the Census Bureau should ask if a person is enrolled in a state-recognized tribe?

12.1 For what reasons did you say “yes” or “no?”

13.0 Please answer Question 10 of your Focus Group Questions handout. [WAIT 20 SECONDS.] Do you think the Census Bureau should ask if a person is enrolled in a tribe not recognized by either the federal government or any state government?

13.1 For what reasons did you say “yes” or “no?”

14.0 What would you think if the Census Bureau asked about enrollment for each of these three types of tribes when collecting enrollment data?

15.0 Does the phrase “state-registered tribe” differ from “state-recognized tribe,” or are they the same?

16.0 Based on what we've talked about today, what do you think are the most important things for the Census Bureau to remember from this discussion?

17.0 Does anyone have any additional comments?

Thank you very much for your participation!

Name _____

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS HANDOUT

What tribe or tribes are you associated with? Please list the names of the tribe or tribes with which you are associated. For each tribe, also answer whether you are a member of that tribe.

Name of Tribe: _____

Are you a member this tribe?

- Yes
- No

Name of Tribe: _____

Are you a member this tribe?

- Yes
- No

Name of Tribe: _____

Are you a member this tribe?

- Yes
- No

Name of Tribe: _____

Are you a member this tribe?

- Yes
- No

I am not associated with any tribes.

Name _____

2. Please list the tribe or tribes in which you are enrolled.

Name of Tribe: _____

Name of Tribe: _____

I am not enrolled in any tribe.

Name _____

3. To your knowledge, does an American Indian or Alaska Native need to be enrolled in a tribe to be considered a member of that tribe?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know
- D. Something else

Name _____

4. Do you think the Census Bureau should ask American Indians and Alaska Natives whether they are enrolled in a tribe?

A. Yes

B. No

5.

What is your race or origin? *Mark all boxes that apply AND print your specific origin(s) in the lines below. Note, you may report multiple groups.*

White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, and so on.*

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran, Colombian, and so on.*

Black or African Am. – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, and so on.*

Asian – *Print, for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and so on.*

American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mayan, Doyon, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, and so on.*

Middle Eastern or North African – *Print, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, and so on.*

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – *Print, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, and so on.*

Some other race or origin – *Specify.*

Name _____

6. Are you familiar with the term “federally recognized tribe?”

A. Yes

B. No

Name _____

7. Are you familiar with the term “state-recognized tribe?”

A. Yes

B. No

Name _____

8. This is one of the ways we are thinking about asking this question for federally recognized tribes: "Are you enrolled in a federally recognized tribe?" Is this an appropriate way to ask the question?

A. Yes

B. No

Name _____

9. Do you think the Census Bureau should ask if a person is enrolled in a state-recognized tribe?

A. Yes

B. No

Name _____

10. Do you think the Census Bureau should ask if a person is enrolled in a tribe not recognized by either the federal government or any state government?

A. Yes

B. No