

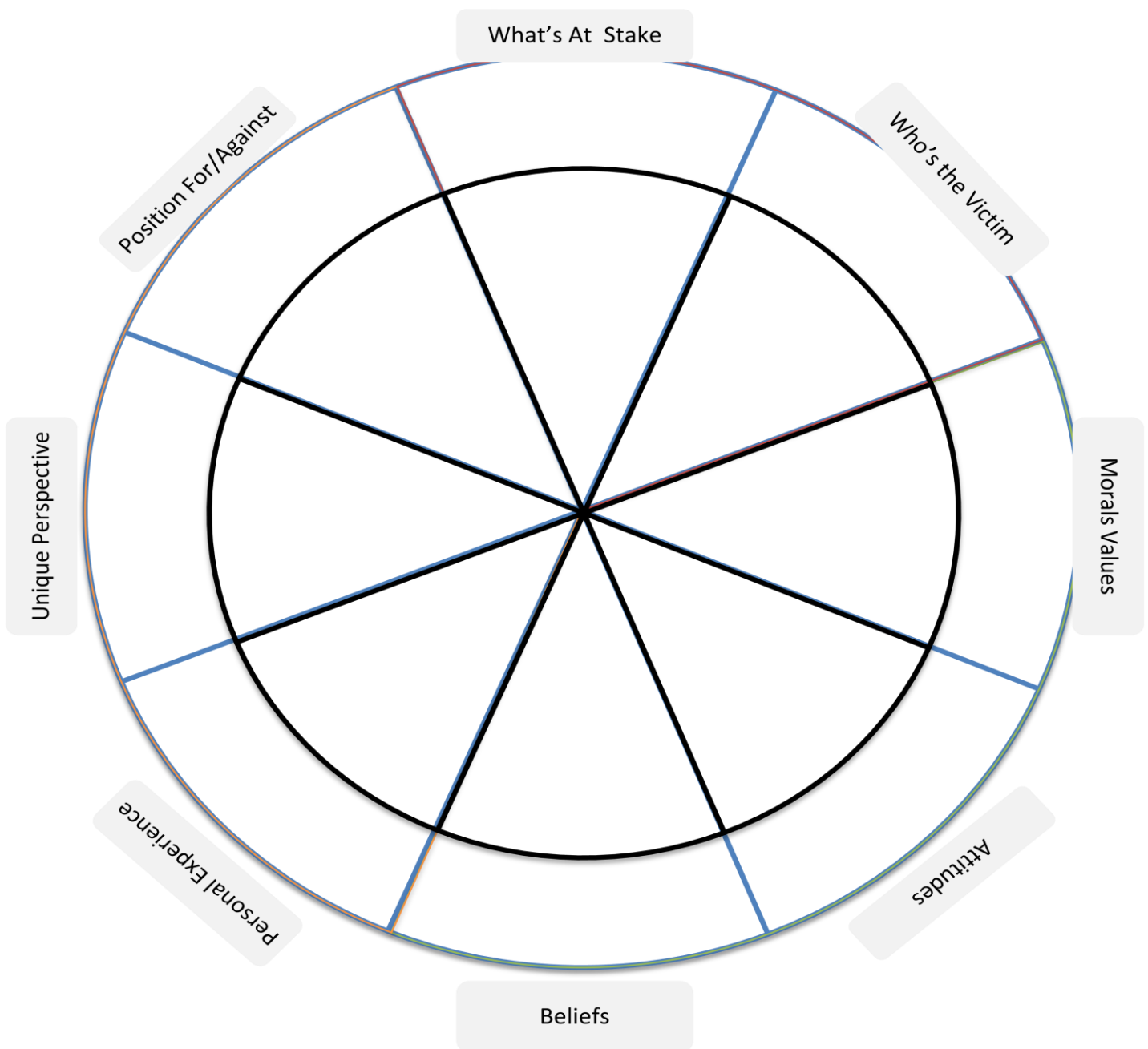
Crossing Party Lines

Interviewing another about their position on a specific issue is all about making them an **MVP**:

M – Why it matters to them

V – Their values, attitudes, and beliefs

P – Personal experiences and unique perspective



Sample Questions

Why it Matters

- **What matters to you about this issue?**
 - What problem are we trying to solve related to this issue?
 - Why do we need to do anything about <issue>
 - What do you think matters to <the other side>?
- **Who are the victims?**
 - Do you think there will be winners and losers with <their side's solution>, and if so, who wins and who loses?
 - Do you think there will be winners and losers with <the other side's solution>, and if so, who wins and who loses?
 - Who do you view as being hurt by or impacted by the current situation?
 - Who would the solution presented by <the other side> hurt?
- **What is at stake?**
 - What do you think will happen if we don't <interviewee's position>?
 - What do you think will happen if we do nothing?
- **Why this is important now, at this time?**
 - Why do you think this issue has come up now?
 - What's so bad about the way things are now?
 - Do you think this is a real issue?

Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs

- **Values/Morals**
 - Which of their core values or morals come into play with this issue?
 - Why is this important to you?
 - Why do you care about this particular issue?
 - How does morality fit into this?
 - How do family values, or other values fit into this?
 - What don't you like about <the other side's proposal>?
- **Attitudes**
 - What's so bad about the way things are now?
 - If there was one thing you would like the leaders of the other side to know about this issue, what is it?
 - If there was one thing you would like the average citizen on the other side to know about this issue, what is it?
- **Beliefs**
 - Do you support <this solution> because of any religious beliefs?
 - Why do you think we need to take a stand on this issue?
 - What do you think is motivating the opposition?
 - What do you think is motivating your side?

Perspective and Personal Experiences

- **Their Experiences Related to the Issue**
 - Do you have any experiences related to the issue that you'd be willing to share?
 - Do you personally know anyone who would be impacted by <their side's solution>?
 - Do you personally know anyone who would be impacted by <the other side's solution>?
 - How would the nation's decision on this issue impact you?
- **Their unique perspective** (Viewing the issue from a parent's perspective might be different than from a policeman's)
 - How would you describe your unique perspective?
 - Why do you think your perspective on the issue is different from mine?
 - Do you think where you live influences your position?
 - Do you think what you do (your job) or how much you earn influences your position?
 - Do you think being <older, younger, a boomer, a millennial> gives you a different perspective?
 - Who do you know that is closer to the issue and helps you understand it? What have they shared with you?

Position

- **Their Position**
 - What are you in favor of?
 - What's your preferred solution?
 - What do you think about <the issue> and why?
 - So, what's your position on <the issue>?
 - What do you, personally, think we should do about <the issue>?
 - When the dust settles, what do you hope <the situation> will look like?
- **What they are against**
 - How different is what you want from what <the other side> wants?
 - What don't you like about <the other side's proposal> or <person or event>?
 - What worries you most about what <the other side> wants?
- **Success**
 - What would success look like?
 - What needs to change to put things right?
 - After the dust settles, what would you like to see in <America, your state, your community>?

