

Table 5.1 Question Classification

| Word(s) the Question Begins With | Type of Question | Usual Client Responses |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| What | Open | Factual and descriptive information |
| How | Open | Process or sequential information |
| Why | Partially open | Explanations and defensiveness |
| Where | Minimally open | Information pertaining to location |
| When | Minimally open | Information pertaining to time |
| Who | Minimally open | Information pertaining to a person |
| Do/Did | Closed | Specific information |
| Could/Would/Can/Will | Swing | Diverse info, sometimes rejected |
| I wonder/You must/I'd like to hear | Indirect | Exploration of thoughts and feelings |
| What if | Projective or presuppositional | Information on judgment and values |