

Possible Stems

Paraphrasing

Some possible paraphrasing stems include the following:

So, ...
In other words, ...
What I'm hearing then, ...
What I hear you saying, ...
From what I hear you say, ...
I'm hearing many things, ...
As I listen to you I'm hearing, ...

Meditational Questions

Some meditational question stems include...

What's another way you might...?
What would it look like if...?
What do you think would happen if...?
How was...different from (like)...?
What's another way you might...?
What sort of an impact do you think...?
What criteria do you use to...?
When have you done something like...before?
What do you think...?
How did you decide...come to the conclusion...?
What might you see happening in your classroom if...?

Clarifying

Some possible clarifying stems include the following:

Would you tell me a little more about...?
Let me see if I understand...
I'd be interested in hearing more about...
It'd help me understand if you'd give me an example of...
So, are you saying/suggesting...?
Tell me what you mean when you...
Tell me how that idea is like (different from)...
To what extent...?
I'm curious to know more about...
I'm intrigued by.../I'm interested in.../I wonder...

Note: "Why" tends to elicit a defensive response.

Teachable Moments

Some possible stems include the following:

One thing to keep in mind is...
If you're interested in _____, it's important to...
What I know about _____ is...
It's sometimes/usually helpful to _____ when ...

Suggestions

Some possible suggestions include the following:

One thing I've learned/noticed is...
A couple of things to keep in mind...
From our experience, one thing we've noticed...
Several/some teachers I know have tried a couple of different things in this sort of situation and maybe one might work for you...
What I know about _____ is ...
Something/some things to keep in mind when dealing with...
Something you might consider trying is...
There are a number of approaches...
Sometimes it's helpful if...

Nonjudgmental Responses

Some nonjudgmental stems include the following:

I noticed that when you....the students really...
It sounds like you have a number of ideas to tryout! It'll be exciting/interesting/great to see which works best for you.
How do you think the lesson went and why?
What did you do to make the lesson so successful?
I'm interested in learning/hearing more about...
I'm really looking forward to...

Foundations in Mentoring
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