

Handout: BETTER QUESTIONS
Digging Deeper and Asking Probing Questions

Use These Sentence Stems to Help You dig deeper into conversation

TO CLARIFY

Is it your position that...?

To be clear, what you are saying is...?

Could you please clarify...?

I'm not sure what you meant when you said X, can you help me better understand?

Could you explain that again?

I have a question about...?

TO DIG DEEPER

Could you explain what you meant by...?

Could I dig a bit deeper into your thoughts about...?

What did you mean when you said...?

Why do you think that?

Is that an exception or the norm?

Could you give an example to backup your point?

Is that really true? How do you know?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO DEEPEN CONVERSATIONS

What did you mean when you said?

I respectfully agree or disagree with you because...

Can you tell me where you saw that in the text?

How do you know?

I was confused when..

What if we think about it this way?

This highlights the difference between....

To build upon what _____ was saying...

Something that stood out to me was...

We can tie that back to...

I found a quote from the text that supports what you are saying.