SOCIAL NARRATIVE

What Can I Do When an Assignment Is Unclear?



Teachers give assignments in class, on paper, and online. Directions explain what students are expected to do.

Sometimes directions make sense right away. Sometimes a student may need more information.

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Sometimes I Need More Information



I may understand most of an assignment and still be unsure about one part. This happens to many students.

Being unsure does not mean that I was not listening or that I cannot do the work. It means I need more information before I continue.

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I Can Check the Information I Already Have



I can look at the directions again. I may also check an example, rubric, class notes, or the online class page.

Sometimes the answer is already there. If the question remains, asking the teacher may be helpful.

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I Can Find the Part That Is Unclear



It may help to identify the exact word, step, or requirement that is confusing.

For example, I might know the topic but not know how long the response should be. A specific question helps the teacher know what information I need.

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It Is Okay to Ask



Teachers expect students to have questions sometimes. Asking for clarification is a common part of learning.

I may raise my hand, ask during independent work, speak with the teacher after directions are finished, or use email or the class website if that is allowed.

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Ways I Can Ask



I can begin with what I understand and then name the part that is unclear.

Could you clarify what you mean by _____?

I understand that I need to _____. I am not sure about _____.

Could you show me an example of what you are looking for?

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The Teacher May Need a Moment



The teacher may answer right away. The teacher may also ask me to wait, meet after class, or send the question by email.

These are common responses. They do not mean that my question was wrong or unimportant.

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I Can Check What I Heard



After the teacher explains, I may check my understanding by saying, “**So I should _____. Is that right?”**

If I am still unsure, I can say, “**I understand that part. I still have a question about _____.”**

Asking again can provide the missing detail.

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Asking for Clarification Supports My Learning



When I have enough information, I can begin or continue the assignment.

A clear question helps the teacher understand what I need. Asking for clarification is a responsible way to support my learning and advocate for myself.

I do not have to guess when I need more information.

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