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The HeART of Coaching: Asking Purposeful Questions



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Brainstorm Obstacles

- Think about situations experienced more than once.
- Focus on interactions with teachers.
- Generalize these situations into statements.
- Record each idea on a sticky note.

Generating Questions With Purpose

Purpose
Clarify
Generate Ideas
Gain Insight
Set Goals
Motivate

Category	Obstacle	Question/Statement
Clarify		
Generate Ideas		
Gain Insight		
Set Goals		
Motivate		

Small-Group Sorting Task

- Sort your obstacles into the purpose categories.

Invitations to Think

“By choosing our words carefully and using intentionally designed questions, we can engage and transform another person’s thinking and perspective.”

—Diane Huinker, “Focusing Conversations to Promote Teacher Thinking,” *Teaching Children Mathematics*, March 2004.

Structuring Questions

- Start reading at “Structuring Questions” on page 355.
- Read up to “Closing Comments” on page 356.
- Highlight something you’d like to share with your small group.

Well-Structured Questions

- Invitation to think
- Cognitive process
- Specific topic

Math-Related Examples

- “Reflecting on what you’ve noticed as your students work with fractional numbers, what specific misconceptions or difficulties have you observed?”
- “When you find yourself in a situation where you must tackle a challenging real-life problem, what helps you to feel confident about your ability to make sense of the situation and solve the problem?”

Group Task

Purpose	Verbs
Clarify	describe, explain, remember, notice
Generate Ideas	Identify, notice, observe, consider
Gain Insight	compare, contrast, relate, evaluate, conclude, distinguish, summarize
Set Goals	plan, determine, establish
Motivate	envision, anticipate, build upon

Quiet Write

As you think about your work as a coach, what is your anticipated impact of using **purposeful** questions with an invitation to think, a cognitive process, and a specific topic?

“It matters what you say
and
how you say it.”

Talk Moves: A Teacher’s Guide for Using Classroom Discussion in Math, Third Edition by Suzanne Chapin, Catherine O’Connor, and Nancy Canavan Anderson

Thank You!

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