

Questions for a Facilitated Discussion

Questions that ask for more evidence:

- How do you know that?
- On what data is that based?

Questions that ask for clarification:

- What do you mean by that?
- What is an example of what you are saying?

Open questions:

- Why do you think about...?
- What does it mean when...?
- What are some data that tells us...?

Linking or Extension Questions:

- Is there a connection between what you are saying and what was said earlier?
- Does your idea challenge or support what we have been discussing?

Cause-and-Effect Questions:

- How might changing our meeting time affect attendance?
- What is likely to be the effect of providing common planning time for grade level teachers?

Summary and Synthesis Questions:

- What do we understand better as a result of today's discussion?
- What remains unresolved about this topic?
- Based on our discussion today, what do we need to talk about next time if we are going to fully understand this issue?

Planning a Facilitated Discussion

1. What can you do to prepare participants for the discussion?

2. What is your opening question (using positive presumptions)?

3. What are some follow up questions you will want to ask?

4. Where might the conversation become stalled or blocked?

5. What questions could you use to sustain the discussion when this happens?