

A. Preparing for Strong Coaching

1. Be prepared by frequently completing the Coaches' Core Learning Path.
2. Be supportive by regularly responding to students with at least 1 comment and show you are listening to what they are sharing by using the Cheer function with the thumbs up.
3. Encourage further reflective exploration by asking open-ended questions to continue the online dialogue with learners. Remind students to engage in the conversation.

B. Coaching Principles

1. **Ask-Open Ended Questions.** Demonstrate the importance of curiosity and the continual process of exploration by asking students questions to push their thinking further. The next time students login to their EduGuide account they will see what Team Coaches have written in their mentoring comments in their Core Learning Path. Encourage students to respond to your questions with another question in return. In continuing the online dialogue, everyone learns more.
2. **Be Personal.** Get to know students better as you review the comments they have made in their Core Learning Path. Share personal examples from life experiences to model and illustrate concepts. Trust is essential for building a relationship and strong mentor bonds.
3. **Allow Free Writing.** Avoid correcting spelling or grammar in student writing since the focus of the Core Learning Path is in assisting students in the development of personal strengths and the cultivation of social and emotional growth. These skills are best nurtured in a space of security where curiosity is encouraged and students feel safe to share their thoughts, ideas, feelings and reflections of different mindsets freely. Corrections can potentially inhibit engagement and possibly deter learner participation.
4. **Use Effective Encouragement.** Assist students in being able to welcome challenges, learn from disappointment and pursue their personal and academic goals by focusing on the strategies, efforts and supports they are using to strive for success.
5. **Be Supportive.** Sometimes all we need is to feel as though our voice has been heard. Regularly review student comments. This does not mean responding to every comment. Use the Cheer Tool by clicking on the thumbs up to let students know we are there, and we are listening to them. When responding to student writing, acknowledge a point that students have shared in their reflection. Remind students of their personal strengths. Share a personal story to demonstrate understanding. Provide empathetic guidance, and direct students to resources if they need support. Follow the policies and procedures at your school if students need further interventions.

C. Coaching Prompts

Acknowledge Feelings

- It sounds like that must have made you upset/frustrated/overwhelmed/stressed
- Sometimes when that happens we can feel upset/frustrated/overwhelmed/stressed.
- Let me know if you would like to talk about that more.
- That must be difficult. I'm sorry to hear about this.

Ensure Comprehension

- Describe...?
- What does ... mean?
- What stood out to you about this quote/video /text/website?
- What are some similarities and differences between these ideas?

Seek Clarification

- When you say ... describe what you mean?
- Could you give me more details about that?
- I'm not sure I understand what you are saying. Please tell me more.
- Could you give me another example of what you're saying?

Incite Investigation

- Could you tell me more about...?
- How did... happen?
- Why do you think... happened?
- What made you do/feel/say/think that?

Urge Further Reflection

- Did you expect... to happen?
- When you said... what did you mean?
- What would make this a higher priority for you?
- What did you do/feel/say/think when... happened?

Fuel Action

- Have you had a chance to try...?
- Did you get a chance to practice...?
- What do you think you could do to make ... happen?
- How big a priority is changing this for you: from a low of 1 to a high of 10?

Take a moment to reflect with other Team Coaches about some other open-ended questions that could be used to continue the conversations with students.

Share your questions with one another to offer support in the mentoring process.