



## Effective Practices for Asking Follow-Up Questions

Below are some suggested questions (ranging from basic to complex) to help participants develop their **ideas**, search for **evidence** in the text, and **respond** constructively to others.

### Idea Questions

- Can you say more about that?
- Is there another way you can explain that to us?
- When you say [word or phrase], what do you mean?

### Evidence Questions

- Where do you see that in the text?
- Can you read us the part where that happens?
- What part of the text supports your answer?

### Response Questions

- Can you tell [name] why you agree with her?
- What do you think about what [name] just said?
- Does anyone have a different answer from [name]?

### Going further: Considering the implications of ideas

- How does that idea help us answer our focus question?
- When you say that, do you mean [implication]?
- Does anyone have a different answer to the question?

### Going further: Explaining the evidence

- How does that part of the text support your answer?
- Can you explain why this part makes you think that?
- What does the character do or say to support your idea?

### Going further: Relating other responses to your own

- Why do you disagree with [name]’s answer?
- Whose idea connects most strongly to your own?
- Is your idea similar to what [name] just said, or is it different?

**Listen carefully to what is being said.** Let your questions flow from participants’ responses, and incorporate their phrasing into your questions (e.g., *Can you explain what you mean by [word or phrase]?*)

**Use the text.** Ask participants to return to the selection for evidence and to read that evidence aloud. Ask questions about specific words and phrases to help participants explore ideas.

**Let participants do the work.** Don’t feel that you need to ask a follow-up question after every comment. If other participants jump in with responses, let the conversation unfold for a while. Similarly, don’t worry about filling every silence—some participants may need more time to think and respond.

**Set a good example.** Over time, as they see you modeling good follow-up questions, participants will take more responsibility for the discussion and begin asking questions of one another.