

REFLECTING BACK

Ways to show you are about to reflect, not debate	Ways to check in that you heard correctly
“What I’m hearing is...” “Sounds like you are saying...” “I’m not sure I’m with you, but...” “If I’m hearing you correctly...” “It sounds like what’s most important to you is...”	“Did I get that right?” “Was that right “ “Does it sound like I understood?” “Is that what you were saying?”

SHIFTING AWAY FROM DEBATE

Communicating your intention (Optional)	Adding the frame to your reflection
“I’m pretty sure I’ve heard the party lines. What I care about right now is hearing about your personal experience around this issue.” “My views make sense to me. I want to get insight into how or why your view makes sense to you.”	“From your perspective,...” “In your opinion....” “It’s your understanding that...” “It makes sense to you to” “The way you see it....”

RESPONSES THAT HELP THE DISCUSSION MOVE AWAY FROM THE FACTS

ACKNOWLEDGE

- “It sounds like these facts make more sense to you than some of the others out there.”
- “These facts certainly support your position.”
- “Those are definitely some of the facts around this issue.”
- “Let’s back away from the details for a minute and.... “

ENCOURAGE THE SPEAKER TO PRACTICE TALKING ABOUT THEMSELVES

- “I’ve heard some of those facts before. Why do those particular facts matter to you?”
- “You seem to have a lot of facts/data that support your view. How might you go about testing your view by trying to disprove it? “
- “Are you saying those statistics are part of why you hold the views you do? “
- “I’m curious about what you aren’t mentioning. Do you accept the facts my friends on the other side have been telling me about? “

GETTING BEYOND GENERALIZATIONS

- “You’ve been using the word ‘you*.’ Can you help me understand who you are referring to? “
- “I heard some pretty broad statements about <liberals/conservatives, etc.> In this forum, we prefer to let people speak for themselves.”
- “Can you be more specific? Who are you referring to when you talk about xxx”
- “Can you be more specific about who “they” are?”
- “How do you define <group name>?”

“DIGGING DEEPER

- “You mentioned ____<fact>__. I’m curious, why that stands out in your mind. “
- “It sounds like you look at this issue from the perspective of someone who understands _____. Can you share more about your experience with_____”
- “It sounds like you support/don’t support things that appear to be _____. Can you say more about your beliefs around _____?”
- “It sounds like you are in favor of _____. Can you say more about <the people> who _____?”
- “You seem to be concerned about _____. I bet you know people who _____. Can you tell me more about the?”
- “Can you say more about why you believe/trust/accept the argument that_____ ? “
- “I notice that your experiences have led you to believe.... “
- “Can you help me understand how you are connecting the dots? “
- “How do you see American values playing out in this? “
- “I wonder if you would be willing to talk a bit about why this issue matters to you in the first place. “
- “Who do you see as being impacted by this situation? “
- “What’s at stake here, if we do x or don’t do it? “
- “I wonder if you have any personal experiences with this that will help me understand your position better. “

GIVING THANKS

- “Thanks for sharing. “
- “Thanks, I really feel like I understand where you are coming from now.”
- “Thanks, that’s a new way of looking at it for me.”
- “Thanks, I didn’t know that.”