

Solution-Focused Questioning Lead-ins for Drug Court Staff

Sometimes the most difficult aspect of trying out a new concept is getting started. This tool lists a few of the lead-ins used in solution-focused questioning.

Make use of Who, What, Where, When, and How. Avoid the word “Why” because of the negative or hostile tone it can convey.

Lead-in Possibilities

How will things be different?

Did you notice?

What will you notice about...

What would it take?

Perhaps...

What would you change?

I am not certain, do you suppose...

What small change would you make?

Suppose...

So...

It seems...

How will you know?

Is it possible...

When things are different...

How do you want your life to be different?

How would that be helpful?

What will you do instead?

What tells you that you are better?

How did you figure out how to do that?

What is better?

What else...

Tell me about...

What did you notice...

How can I be helpful?

What did your family, friends, teacher, boss,
arresting officer, etc., notice...

What have you heard?

Anything else...

Tell me the reason (instead of why?)

How do you know?