Interview Prompts

Persons being interviewed often need some additional prompts or probing to clarify questions, or to encourage them to expand on their experience. Remember, persons being interviewed can sometimes be nervous and unsure of how much detail they should give. Below are a few examples of some prompts that can be used to draw out more detail about an experience or interview response.

1. Can you tell me more about that?
2. Can you explain what you mean by that?
3. Can you give me an example?
4. How so?
5. What does that look like/sound like/feel like to you?
6. What was that experience like for you?
7. How did that make you feel?

Make sure that your tone is friendly and curious and, if the interview is happening in person, that you make eye contact with interviewees when using prompts. It is critical that the interviewee does not feel as though the interviewer is irritated, impatient, or disappointed with their response. Rather, they should feel the interviewer is genuinely interested and happy to listen.