

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?

What will you notice about...

Perhaps...

I am not certain, do you suppose...

Suppose...

It seems...

Is it possible...

How do you want your life to be different?

What will you do instead?

How did you figure out how to do that?

What else...

What did you notice...

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

Tell me the reason (instead of why?)

Did you notice?

What would it take?

What would you change?

What small change would you
make?

So...

How will you know?

When things are different...

How would that be helpful?

What tells you that you are better?

What is better?

Tell me about...

How can I be helpful?

What have you heard?

Anything else...

How do you know?