Team Discussion Tool—Assessing and Advancing Questions to Ask Students

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Assessing and Advancing Prompts to Ask Students During Small-Group Discourse</th></tr>
<tr><td>Prompts that help students work together to make sense of mathematics:
Who agrees? Disagrees? Who will explain why or why not?
Who has the same answer but a different way to explain it?
Who has a different answer? What is your answer, and how did you get it?
Can you please ask the rest of the class that question?
Can you explain to your partner your understanding of what was just said?
Can you convince us that your answer makes sense?</td><td>Prompts that help students learn to reason mathematically:
Does that always work? Why or why not?
Is that true for all cases? Explain.
What is a counterexample for this solution?
How could you prove that?
What assumptions are you making?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prompts that help students learn to conjecture, invent, and solve problems:
What would happen if _____? What if it did not happen?
Do you see a pattern? Explain.
What about the last one?
How did you think about the problem?
What decision do you think he or she should make?
What is alike and what is different about your method of solution and his or hers? Why?</td><td>Prompts that help students connect mathematics, its ideas, and its applications:
How does this relate to _____?
What ideas that we have learned before (prior knowledge) were useful in solving this problem?
What problem have we solved that is similar to this one? How are they the same? How are they different?
What uses of mathematics did you find in the newspaper last night?
What example can you give me for _____?</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">List other questioning prompts you use:</td></tr>
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Source: Adapted from National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2009). Focus in high school mathematics: Reasoning and sense making. *Reston, VA: Author.*