FACILITATION SERIES: The Things Facilitators Say . . .

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There are times when a facilitator pauses a group in its discussion to allow the group to reflect on what has happened, start a discussion, clarify an issue, evaluate its progress, or encourage participation from all members. During these moments, the right statement or question will help transition the group to a new thought process. A facilitator’s goal is to guide the group through the process for accomplishing the defined task while maintaining a good rapport with the group.

The following statements/questions are examples of “things a facilitator would say” to the group. This list is not exhaustive but just the beginning.

- Do these goals align with your vision?
- Let’s think about this another way . . .
- Let’s review the question . . .
- How are we doing?
- Are we following our ground rules?
- You’ve heard what has been said, what do you think?
- Are there other options that should be considered?
- Tell us more . . .
- Thank you for investing your time . . .
- Today, your brain is needed . . . your best thinking.
- We would like to hear from everyone in the room . . .
- We’d like to hear from some of you that haven’t shared yet . . .
- Take a moment to think about . . .
- Let’s make a note of that and be sure to address it later . . .
- Let’s ask the group. What do you think? (to the group)
- Thank you. I think we’ve got your input here. Now, let’s get some other ideas.
- I see a lot of you nodding your heads. Does that statement resonate with you?

Expanding the List
Please share your statements or questions with the publication authors, and we’ll continue to expand the list.