



UPchieve Coaching Strategies

Coaching Strategy	Action Steps	Real life examples
Build rapport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use students' names early and often • Ask students how they are and make them feel welcome • Use positive words, !!!, and :) 	<i>Hi Jemimah! How are you today? :)</i>
Understand the assignment or task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions about the assignment • Set reasonable expectations 	<i>Could you share the rubric, please?</i> <i>Let's focus on problems 3 & 4 during our time together!</i>
Determine what students know & start there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use questions to assess what students know already • Accept your student's level of understanding and start there 	<i>Could you define this word? What's the first step?</i> <i>No worries, let's start from the beginning!</i>
Ask probing questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify and advance thinking • Guide next steps • Check understanding 	<i>Can you explain how you found that?</i> <i>How are...and ...similar?</i> <i>Do you understand my explanation? What would we do next?</i>
Breakdown concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain foundational concepts • Provide "tools" like outlines or formulas • Give students time to work on & process smaller concepts 	<i>The first step in mitosis is...</i> <i>Here's an outline for an argumentative essay, let's see if we can fill it out.</i> <i>I'll wait while you try this step again!</i>
Encourage students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express your belief in students' capabilities, especially if they're struggling or behind • Keep positive when students make mistakes 	<i>We'll work through it together, this is a confusing concept. I believe in you!</i> <i>Excellent effort, I appreciate you sharing your answer. Let's look back at...</i>
Give specific praise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specific, authentic praise • Focus on actions, like effort and persistence • Celebrate progress 	<i>Great job solving that problem! You persevered using the formula we reviewed.</i> <i>Congrats on the hard work today! You have a full outline now :)</i>

Our Favorite Coaching Questions

Questions to determine what students already know

- What would you like to learn more about?
- What do you already know about this?
- How do you define...? <key vocabulary>
- How would you describe <key concept> in your own words?
- What's the first step?
- What have you already tried?
- What did you learn in class that we might use in this assignment?
- What's the formula we should use?

Questions to help uncover a student's thought process

- Can you say more about...?
- Can you show me what you mean by...?
- Can you tell me more about why you took that step?
- Can you tell me more about your thoughts on that? Why do you think that works?
- How do you know?
- What evidence/proof/theory supports this?
- Why do you say that?
- Why?

Questions to guide student's thinking

- What's the next step?
- If <insert hint/formula/definition> then what should we do?
- What would be an example of...?
- What do you think causes this to happen...? Why:?
- What would be an alternative?
- How are...and ...similar?
- What is a counterargument for...?
- What generalizations can you make?
- How does...affect...?