

30 Ways to Affirm

Something other than great or good!	Affirmation even when I strongly disagree...	The response is incorrect. Help!
“Thanks!” “I like that idea because...”	“Thank you, Steve, you’ve pointed out something very important.”	“Hmmm, tell me how you got to that.”
Echo what has been said, for instance: “Respect – yes!”	“That’s something I had not thought of before.”	“Tell me more about that, I had been thinking of this differently.”
“That is so interesting. Please tell me more.”	“I appreciated you sharing this idea because...”	“I’m not sure I know what you mean by that, can you say more?”
“So now we have (name...)” Repeating the main points of the contribution (echoing)	“I’m glad you shared that because I struggle with...”	“I’ve never thought of it that way – and I’m not sure I understand you’re thinking – tell me more.”
“Yes!” “Wow!” “Keep them coming!”	“Thanks for sharing this. It’s important to have some different perspectives about this.”	“I’m not sure we’re talking about the same thing here. Let’s have a look at it again.”
“That’s a nice addition to what we are talking about.”	“One of the axioms of Dialogue Education™ is ‘pray for doubt’; Thank you for doubting!”	“You know, that doesn’t fit my experience. Can you tell me more about how you see that working?”
3 claps, 3 stomps, fist pump, “YES!”	“I hear/ see/ feel what you are saying. How does that relate to what we said earlier?” (weaving)	“Let me check my understanding. Did I hear you say...” (paraphrase)
“This supports exactly what we are saying about...”	“I’ve never thought of it that way – tell me more!”	“What do others think of this idea?” (throw it to the group)
“I really like what you said about...”	“Okay! Ummmm, let’s explore that more!”	“Okay! Ummmm, let’s explore that more!”
“POWER!” (clap)	“How provocative. I’m not clear about... Please tell me more.”	“How provocative. I’m not clear about... Please tell me more.”



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