Listen - Listen carefully to understand what the speaker means.

- What is at the heart of their message?
- What values or beliefs do you hear?
- What concerns are they expressing?

Affirm – Find an item or a value that you share with the speaker and say what it is to find common ground.

- I agree with what you said about...
- I know a lot of people have that same concern
- I appreciate your honesty



Respond – Respond directly to the speakers statements or concerns. Do not talk around the issue to control the conversation. This response may also be in the form of a question to find out the speaker's main concern or message.



Add information – Provide additional information related to the topic.

- I looked into this and found...
- What I have learned is....
- Share a personal story

