

After you finish writing your case, you will want to share it with others. You might choose to create discussion questions for readers to help guide conversations about your case. The following matrix will help you think through the kinds of questions that you might want to include. Each of the five categories of questions in the left-hand column draws out a different element of the story that you might want your readers to focus on, and leads readers to discover new ideas and solutions.

Instructions: Refer to the first column to get ideas about the types of questions that you might want to develop for your discussion, and then look at sample questions in the middle column as a guide. Finally, in the third column, create your own questions based on your case.

Create questions that encourage readers to:	Sample discussion questions from <u>"Reaching John: When Disengagement Is Not What It May Seem,"</u> by Christopher Hope**	Questions from your case
Describe the situation. Ask readers to describe the main individuals and situations in the case, and state the basic mismatch to be resolved.	<i>Who is John? What are his strengths? What are his challenges? What is John's relationship with Christopher? What are the differences between what Christopher wants and needs and what John wants and needs?</i>	
Explore contributing factors. Ask readers to explore how past events, assumptions, culture, or other factors contribute to the situation.	<i>What were John's experiences in school? What assumptions does Christopher make about John? How do we learn that these assumptions are incorrect?</i>	
Think about next steps. Ask readers to imagine that they are a particular person involved in the case and to think about what steps they might take to resolve the situation if they were in that person's shoes.	<i>After talking with John at church, how might Christopher have followed up? What would you do if you were Christopher, and John stopped showing up at events again?</i>	
Replay the case. Ask readers to think about how outcomes in the case might have turned out differently if other people or circumstances had been involved.	<i>Imagine that John and Christopher had not connected at church. In what other community settings might Christopher have built a trusting relationship with John?</i>	
Look at the bigger picture. Ask readers questions that make them consider how larger ideas and policies affect the main themes of your case.	<i>How might prior experiences impact the ways that families are engaged in their children's learning? Why is it important to take time to listen to families' stories?</i>	

*This matrix is based on the case discussion framework presented in Weiss, H., Lopez, M. E., Kreider, H., & Chatman-Nelson, C. (2013). *Preparing educators to engage families: Case studies using an ecological systems framework* (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Available at <http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book237463?siteid=sage-us&prodTypes=any&q=%2C+Preparing+Educators+to+Engage+Families%3A+Case+Studies+Using+an+Ecological+Systems+Framework&fs=1>

**Note: Please see the case titled, "Reaching John: When Disengagement Is Not What It May Seem," written by Christopher Hope: <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/professional-development/create-your-own-case-toolkit-case-collection>