Questions to Elicit Student Thinking
(Math Solutions)

Getting Started
 What is this problem about?
 Would you please explain that in your own words?
 What do you know?
 What problems have you solved that are similar?
 Where can you begin?

While Working
 What have you already tried?
 How did you organize your information?
 What would happen if…?
 Do you see any patterns or relationships that might help you solve this?
 Can you make a drawing or model to explain your thinking?
 Can you make a prediction?
 Why did you…?
 What do you need to do next?
 What would happen if…?
 Is there another way to (draw, explain or say) that?

Reflecting About the Solution
 How do you know your solution is reasonable?
 How can you convince me that your answer makes sense?
 Have you answered the question?
 What were the mathematical ideas in this problem?
 What did you try that did not work?
 Is that the only possible answer?
 How do you know you have solved the problem?
 How did you know you were finished?

Responding to Help Clarify Thinking
 Tell me more.
 Can you explain that in a different way?
 Help me to understand this part…
 Would this method work in other problems?
 Is there a more efficient strategy?
 Is there another strategy that would work?
 How could you help another student without telling them the answer?

The Art of Questioning in Mathematics
The following is a set of questions, which may be helpful in guiding inquiry as an
instructional strategy to deepen and expand student