1. Introduce yourself.
2. Ask the student to describe their homework problem.
3. Ask the student to describe what they want help with.

• If they don’t know how to get started, ask them to describe the problem in detail:
  • What are the goals of the problem?
  • What are the inputs?
  • What are the outputs?
  • What is their relationship?
  • Can we solve a small example by hand?
  • Is there a part of the problem that they could write code for?
    • (and worry about the rest later?)
  • Can you describe the algorithm in words?

• If they have a syntax error, ask them:
  • What line is the syntax error on?
  • What does the text of the error mean?
  • What does the internet suggest about how to fix this error?
  • What have they tried to fix this error?

• If their code doesn’t work, ask them:
  • What evidence do we have that the code doesn’t work?
  • What test case doesn’t work and what incorrect behavior or output results?
  • Could we come up with a simpler example that demonstrates the error?
  • What lines of code might be producing the bug?
  • Why hypotheses do we have for what might be causing the problem?
  • How can we test these hypotheses?
    • (e.g. writing new test cases, adding print statements, using a debugger)
  • Could we walk through an example that doesn’t work: by hand? with a debugger?