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