CONNECTING WITH SARAH

Moderating a Panel, Part 2
Here are many ways to prompt speakers, and keep a good discussion flowing.

“What is your reaction to what you’ve heard?”

“Give me an example of a time when...”

“How do you plan to proceed? How do you see that working?”

“So if..., then what happens here...? If this happens then what would you do?”

“Talk me through the scenario you’re envisioning...”

“Help me understand...”

“So have I heard you right that...?”

“Let’s stop here and explore the possibilities with our audience. “

“Does that work well for you or do you prefer to do things another way?”

“Does that cover most of your company’s objectives?”

“How do you know when your plan isn’t working well and you need a course correction?”

“I’m not clear about what you’re saying. What are you saying?”

“I’m stuck on something that may be distracting our audience as well...”

“Thank you for your comment, sir. Let’s move on to another...”

“It’s helpful to hear another more difficult point of view, thank you.”

“Let’s just agree to disagree on this point and move to the next, shall we?”

“I speak for the whole audience when I thank you for your great questions and comments.”

“If all the roadblocks were removed, what would this look like?”

“What happens when it doesn’t work...and then what...and then what...?”

“What changes are you advocating and what outcomes are you anticipating?

“What other possibilities have you explored and rejected and why?”

“Which approaches did you give up and why?”

“Does this sound crazy to anyone else?”

“What’s been hidden from your perspective and how did it become clear?”

“What personal style preferences get in your way and what helps you?”

“We have to hear the aftermath of your decision over cocktails! Next?”

Seize all chances for a laugh, if it’s appropriate, and allow everyone in on the joke if it isn’t readily apparent to all. The more you have a good time as moderator, the more animated your speakers and the more engaged your audience will be. This makes for a memorable panel event.