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Sample Feedback Script

Open the discussion by saying something like:

Thanks for coming to talk with me. What I'd like to talk about is employee morale. I want to make this job as fulfilling and satisfying for you as I can. Before I can do that, though, I need to know how you feel your job could be made more fulfilling or what other steps we can take to make you feel satisfied in your job.

At this point, if the employee has definite comments or feedback, let the employee talk. Maintain eye contact, take good notes and occasionally nod or smile to let the employee know that you're listening. If the employee doesn't seem to have anything to say right off the bat, or seems hesitant to comment, you might say something like:

I want you to know that I'm really interested in what you have to say, and I don't want you to feel uncomfortable giving criticism, if that's what's necessary. This isn't a trap, and I'm not going to get angry or retaliate for any criticism you might make. This is really a team process and we're on the same side. If it's OK with you, I'd like to go through some specific questions, and get your thoughts.

If you'd rather not do this now, let me know. We can reschedule a time to meet or you can jot some thoughts down on paper if you'd rather.

If the employee seems really uncomfortable or uninterested, you might conclude the session now. If the employee seems to want to continue participating, you could then go through a list of questions or topics and ask the employee to comment about them.

Here's a sample of some topics that might get your discussion going:

- the good and bad habits of supervisors and coworkers
- the employee's future at the company and how he or she feels about it
- the employee's workload and the distribution of work in general
- the employee's working conditions and how he or she feels they could be improved
- the employee's feelings about the importance of the work he or she does