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Exercise I.1: Defining Coaching for Yourself

- 1. Write a brief summary of your job responsibilities; include those that entail coaching and describe the objectives of coaching as you do it in your context.
- 2. Consider again the definition of coaching I've presented: that part of a relationship in which one person is primarily dedicated to serving the long-term development of effectiveness and self-generation in the other. Think about it in relation to your job and the people whose skills you feel responsible for developing.
- 3. Get specific. Make a two-column table like Exhibit 1.1 and fill it out with some specific examples of what you do in your interactions with the people you coach. In the left-hand column, put examples of interactions that fit the definition of coaching that I have provided. In the right-hand column, put examples that are excluded by the definition



EXHIBIT 1.1. Coaching and Noncoaching Activities in Three Fields

Professional Realm	Coaching Activities	Noncoaching Activities
Managers and executives	 Holding career development conversations Eliciting and discussing options for how to accomplish work Providing feedback about a subordinate's behaviors Asking a subordinate for alternative options 	 Delegating authority or tasks Invoking authority as leverage or to get something done Making annual review assessments and compensation decisions Outlining a strategy for others to follow
Teachers	 Asking questions that encourage a student to think differently Working with an individual student on test-taking strategies Processing experimental learning activities with an individual Tutoring one-on-one 	 Grading tests and homework Lecturing and group discussions Disciplining students Interacting with an individual student when authority is the leverage for behavior change
Health care workers	 Asking the patient to observe symptoms more closely Helping the patient to see and understand his body as a whole system Making suggestions for patient self-responsibility in treatment Working with staff on bedside manner 	 Making an expert diagnosis Prescribing medication, tests, or treatment Viewing patients as a complex mechanical system with a breakdown Managing the medical practice