Step Three: Explain

The Purpose: Generate theories of causation, keeping multiple voices in the dialogue. Deepen thinking to get to the best explanations and identify additional data to use to validate the best theories.
The steps include:

1. Generate questions about observations
2. Brainstorm explanations
3. Categorize/classify brainstormed explanations
4. Narrow (based on criteria)
5. Prioritize
6. Get to root causes
7. Validate with other data

Guiding Questions:

- What explains our observations about our data? What might have caused the patterns we see in the data?
- Is this our best thinking? How can we narrow our explanations?
- What additional data sources will we explore to validate our explanation?

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