

SOCRATIC QUESTIONING

Questions of Clarification	Questions that Probe Assumptions	Questions that Probe Reasons and Evidence
What do you mean by ____?	What are you assuming?	What would be an example?
What is your main point?	What is the other speaker assuming?	How do you know?
How does ____ relate to ____?	What could we assume instead?	What makes you think this is true?
Could you put that another way?	You seem to be assuming ____.	Do you have any evidence for that?
Is your basic point ____ or ____?	Do I understand you correctly?	What difference does that make?
What do you think is the main issue here?	All of your reasoning depends on the idea that _____. Why have you based your reasoning on _____ instead of _____?	What are your reasons for saying that?
Let me see if I understand you; do you mean ____ or ____?	You seem to be assuming ____.	What other information do you need?
How does this relate to our problem/discussion/issue?	How do you justify taking that for granted?	Could you explain your reasons to us?
What do you, <name>, mean by this remark? What do you take <name> to mean by his remark?	Is that always the case? What makes you think the assumption holds here?	Are these reasons adequate?
Can you summarize in your own words what the last speaker just said? . . . <Speaker>, is this what you meant?	What would make someone make that assumption?	What makes you say that?
Could you give me an example?		What led you to that belief?
Would this be an example, . . . ?		How does that apply to this case?
Could you explain this further?		What would change your mind?
Would you say more about that?		But, is that good evidence for that belief?
What makes you say that?		Is there a reason to doubt that evidence?
		Who is in a position to know that is true?
		What would you say to someone who said that ____?
		Can someone else give evidence to support that view?
		By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?
		How could we find out if that is true?

SOCRATIC QUESTIONING (CONTINUED)

Questions about Viewpoints or Perspectives	Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences
<p>What are you implying by that?</p> <p>When you say _____, are you implying _____?</p> <p>But, if that happened, what else would happen as a result? Why?</p> <p>What effect would that have?</p> <p>Would that necessarily happen or only possibly/probably happen?</p> <p>What is an alternative?</p> <p>If _____ and _____ are the case, then what might also be true?</p> <p>If we say that _____ is ethical, how about _____?</p>	<p>How can we find out?</p> <p>What does this question assume?</p> <p>Would _____ ask this question differently?</p> <p>How could someone settle this question?</p> <p>Can we break this question down at all?</p> <p>Is this question clear? Do we understand it?</p> <p>Is this question easy or hard to answer? Why?</p> <p>Does this question ask us to evaluate something? What?</p> <p>Do we all agree that this is the question?</p> <p>To answer this question, what other questions must we answer first?</p> <p>I'm not sure I understand how you are interpreting this question. Is this the same as _____?</p> <p>How would _____ state the issue?</p> <p>Why is this issue important?</p> <p>Is this the most important question?</p>
<p>Questions about the Question?</p>	<p>What was the point of this question?</p> <p>Why do you think I asked this question?</p> <p>What does...mean?</p> <p>How does...apply to everyday life?</p>