

Socratic Circle Questions

Questions of Clarification:

- What do you mean by _____?
- What is your main point?
- How does _____ relate to _____?
- Could you restate that, please?
- What do you think is the main issue?
- Could you give me an example?
- How would this be an example of _____?
- What is the opposite side of that argument?
- Does that make sense in all cases? Explain.
- Could you explain more about this?
- How does this relate to what we've been talking about?

Questions that Probe Reasons, Evidence and Causes:

- Could you explain your reasons?
- How do you know that?
- What evidence is there for believing that?
- How strong is that argument? Explain.
- Is there reason to doubt the evidence?
- What other information do we need?
- What would you say to someone who said _____?
- How could we go about finding out of that was true?
- What would change your mind?
- Might that be true or must that be true? Explain.
- Why is that happening?
- On what authority are you basing your information/discussion/argument?

Questions that Probe Assumptions:

- What assumptions are you making?
- What is _____ assuming?
- Do you agree or disagree with...?
- What else could we assume?
- How did you choose those assumptions?

- How can you verify or disprove that assumption?
- Why would someone make that assumption?

Questions about Viewpoints:

- You seem to be approaching this from the _____ perspective. Why?
- Why have you chosen that perspective?
- How would other groups respond? Why?
- Is there another way to view this?
- What would someone who disagrees say?
- Is there bias involved? Explain.
- Is that stated with emotional feeling or logical ideas? Explain.
- Is someone said _____. How would you respond?
- Why is _____ necessary?
- Who benefits from this?

Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences:

- What are you implying?
- How can we find out?
- What does this question assume?
- If that happened, what else would happen?
- Would that necessarily happen or probably happen?
- If _____ and _____ are the case, then what else must be true?
- What would be the consequences?
- How does _____ fit with what we've learned before?
- Why is _____ important?
- Would _____ ask this question differently?
- Is this question easy or hard to answer? Why?
- Is this the most important question or is there an underlying question that is really the issue?