

Socratic Questioning Types and Examples



**“I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.”
-Socrates, 469-399 B.C.**

Questions about the Initial Question or Issue

Is this question clear?
Do you find the question easy or hard to answer? Why?
Why is this question important?
What other questions does this one lead you to ask?
To answer this question what questions do we need to answer first?
How do you know about this?

Implication and Consequence Probes

If ___ is the case, then what else must be also be true?
When you say ___ what else are you implying___?
If that happened what else would happen? Why?
What would be the implications of _____?
Why do you think that is the best _____?

Questioning Viewpoints and Perspectives

What is the difference between..and.....?
How are ...and...alike?
What other way could you look at this?
Why is it better than...?
What comparison may be made between...and...?
What are the strengths and weaknesses of....?

Clarification Questions

Why do you say that?
Could you expand upon that?
What example can you give?
Are you saying.....or.....?
Would you summarize in your own words...?
What specifically does that mean?

Assumption Probes

What might happen if...?
What could be assumed if....?
Is it always the case?
What other assumptions could be made?
Why do you think the assumption holds here?
Explain how/why.....?
How can that assumption be verified or disproved?

Reasons and Evidence Probes

What difference does that make?
What are your reasons for saying that?
What evidence is there to support....?
Can someone else give evidence to support that response?
Why? (ask repeatedly)
How might it be disproved?
How dependable is the source of your information? Why?