

**Socratic questioning techniques**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Clarification**

These questions will help you think more about exactly what you are asking or thinking about and prove the concepts behind your answers or argument. * *Why do you say that?*
* *What exactly does this mean?*
* *Can you explain further?*
* *How does this relate to what we have been talking about?*
* *What do we already know about this?*
* *Can you give me an example?*
* *Are you saying...or...?*
* *Can you r**ephrase that, please?*
 | **2. Challenging Assumptions**Challenging assumptions will make you think about the presuppositions and beliefs on which your arguments are founded. * *What else could we assume?*
* *You seem to be assuming…?*
* *How did you arrive at these assumptions?*
* *Please explain why/how...?*
* *How can you verify or disprove that assumption?*
* *What would happen if...?*
* *Do you agree or disagree with...?*
 | **3. Using Evidence in Arguments**Probe further into other peoples arguments and challenge un-thought-through or weakly-understood arguments.* *Can you give me an example of that?*
* *What evidence do you have for this?*
* *Is there reason to doubt this evidence?*
* *How do you know this?*
* *Can you support this with a reasoned argument?*
* *What do you think causes…?*
* *Are these reasons good enough?*
* *How might it be refuted?*
* *On what authority are you basing your argument?*
 |
| **4. Exploring other Viewpoints**Most arguments are given from a particular position. Show that there are other, equally valid, viewpoints.* *How else could you answer this?*
* *Why is…necessary?*
* *What is the difference between…and…?*
* *What would…say about it?*
* *How might a…answer this?*
* *What if you compared…with…?*
* *What is the difference between...and...?*
* *Why is this...better than...?*
* *What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?*
 | **5. Considering the Consequences**The argument that they give may have logical implications that can be forecast. Do these make sense? Are they desirable?* *Then what would happen?*
* *What would happen if everyone did/believed this?*
* *How could...be used to...?*
* *What are the implications of...?*
* *How does...affect...?*
* *How does...fit with what we learned before?*
* *Why is...important?*
* *What is the best...? Why?*
 | **6. Questioning the Question**You can also turn the question in on itself. Use their attack against themselves. Bounce the ball back into their court, etc.* *What was the point of asking that question?*
* *Why do you think I asked this question?*
* *Am I making sense? Why not?*
* *What else might I ask?*
* *What does that mean?*
 |