

## Socratic questioning techniques

<h3>1. Clarification</h3> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Why do you say that?</i></li><li>• <i>What exactly does this mean?</i></li><li>• <i>Can you explain further?</i></li><li>• <i>How does this relate to what we have been talking about?</i></li><li>• <i>What do we already know about this?</i></li><li>• <i>Can you give me an example?</i></li><li>• <i>Are you saying...or...?</i></li><li>• <i>Can you rephrase that, please?</i></li></ul>	<h3>2. Challenging Assumptions</h3> <p>Challenging assumptions will make you think about the presuppositions and beliefs on which your arguments are founded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What else could we assume?</i></li><li>• <i>You seem to be assuming...?</i></li><li>• <i>How did you arrive at these assumptions?</i></li><li>• <i>Please explain why/how...?</i></li><li>• <i>How can you verify or disprove that assumption?</i></li><li>• <i>What would happen if...?</i></li><li>• <i>Do you agree or disagree with...?</i></li></ul>	<h3>3. Using Evidence in Arguments</h3> <p>Probe further into other peoples arguments and challenge un-thought-through or weakly-understood arguments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Can you give me an example of that?</i></li><li>• <i>What evidence do you have for this?</i></li><li>• <i>Is there reason to doubt this evidence?</i></li><li>• <i>How do you know this?</i></li><li>• <i>Can you support this with a reasoned argument?</i></li><li>• <i>What do you think causes...?</i></li><li>• <i>Are these reasons good enough?</i></li><li>• <i>How might it be refuted?</i></li><li>• <i>On what authority are you basing your argument?</i></li></ul>
<h3>4. Exploring other Viewpoints</h3> <p>Most arguments are given from a particular position. Show that there are other, equally valid, viewpoints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>How else could you answer this?</i></li><li>• <i>Why is...necessary?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the difference between...and...?</i></li><li>• <i>What would...say about it?</i></li><li>• <i>How might a...answer this?</i></li><li>• <i>What if you compared...with...?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the difference between...and...?</i></li><li>• <i>Why is this...better than...?</i></li><li>• <i>What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?</i></li></ul>	<h3>5. Considering the Consequences</h3> <p>The argument that they give may have logical implications that can be forecast. Do these make sense? Are they desirable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Then what would happen?</i></li><li>• <i>What would happen if everyone did/believed this?</i></li><li>• <i>How could...be used to...?</i></li><li>• <i>What are the implications of...?</i></li><li>• <i>How does...affect...?</i></li><li>• <i>How does...fit with what we learned before?</i></li><li>• <i>Why is...important?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the best...? Why?</i></li></ul>	<h3>6. Questioning the Question</h3> <p>You can also turn the question in on itself. Use their attack against themselves. Bounce the ball back into their court, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What was the point of asking that question?</i></li><li>• <i>Why do you think I asked this question?</i></li><li>• <i>Am I making sense? Why not?</i></li><li>• <i>What else might I ask?</i></li><li>• <i>What does that mean?</i></li></ul>