

The Socratic Process

6 Steps of Questioning

1. Clarification



How does this relate to our discussion?

Why are you stating that?

What do we already know about this?

Can you give me an example?

2. Probing Assumptions

What would happen if...?

How can you verify or disprove?

How did you choose those assumptions?

What could we assume instead?

3. Probing Rationale



How do you know this?

What do you think causes...?

What evidence is there that supports...?

How might it be refuted?

4. Questioning Viewpoints



What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?

What are alternative ways of looking at this?

Explain why this is necessary or beneficial and who benefits from it.

5. Probing Consequences



How does ... fit with what our experience tells us?

How does ... affect ...?

What generalizations can we make?

What are the consequences of this assumption?

Why do you think I asked the question?

6. Questions on the Question



What does ... mean?

What is the point of the question?