

Probing questions

Purpose

For all involved in a RWG:

These probing questions are really useful for giving feedback.

When we ask researcher-writers genuine questions about their thinking and their process, they come to a much deeper understanding of their work; they can also begin to notice whether their writing reflects this understanding.

Source of table:

Stepien, B. (n.d.). Tutorial on problem-based learning: Taxonomy of Socratic questioning. In C.A.Toledo "Does your dog bite?": creating good questions for online discussions. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* 18(2), p. 152. Retrieved from: <http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/>

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TABLE 2

Questions that probe for:	Example Questions:
Clarification	<p>Let me see if I understand you; do you mean ___ or ___?</p> <p>What do you think Mike means by his remark, Dee?</p> <p>How does this relate to our problem/discussion/issue?</p> <p>Jane, can you summarize in your own words what Richard said?</p> <p>Richard, is this what you meant?</p> <p>Would this be an example?</p> <p>Would you say more about that?</p> <p>How does ___ relate to ___?</p>
Assumptions	<p>What are you assuming?</p> <p>What is Jenny assuming?</p> <p>What could we assume instead?</p> <p>You seem to be assuming ___. Do I understand you correctly?</p> <p>All of your reasoning depends on the idea that ___. Could you have based your reasoning on ___ instead of ___?</p> <p>Is that always the case? Why do you think the assumption holds here?</p> <p>Why would someone make that assumption?</p>
Reasons and evidence	<p>What would be an example?</p> <p>Do you have any evidence for that?</p> <p>What other information do you need?</p> <p>What led you to that belief?</p> <p>How does that apply to this case?</p> <p>What would change your mind?</p> <p>Is there a reason to doubt that evidence?</p> <p>Who is in a position to know that is true?</p> <p>What would you say to someone who said that ___?</p> <p>What other evidence can support that view?</p>
Viewpoints or perspectives	<p>When you say ___, are you implying ___?</p> <p>But, if that happened, what else would happen as a result? Why?</p> <p>What effect would that have?</p> <p>Would that necessarily happen or only possibly/probably happen?</p> <p>What is an alternative?</p> <p>If ___ and ___ are the case, then what might also be true?</p>
Implications and consequences	<p>How can we find out?</p> <p>Can we break this question down at all?</p> <p>Is this question clear? Do we understand it?</p> <p>To answer this question, what other questions must we answer first?</p> <p>Why is this issue important?</p> <p>Is this the most important question, or is there an underlying question that is really the issue?</p>