

## Engaging in Discussions—Questions

Questions of Clarification	Questions that Probe Assumptions	Questions that Probe Reasons, Evidence and Causes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you mean by...?</li> <li>• What is your main point?</li> <li>• How does...relate to...?</li> <li>• Could you put that another way?</li> <li>• What do you think is the main issue here?</li> <li>• Is your basic point ...or...?</li> <li>• Let me see if I understand you: do you mean...or...?</li> <li>• How does this relate to our discussion/problem/issue?</li> <li>• What so you think John meant by his remark? What did you take John to mean?</li> <li>• Jane, would you summarize in your own words what Richard has said?...Richard, is that what you meant?</li> <li>• Could you give me an example?</li> <li>• Would this be an example:...?</li> <li>• Could you explain that further?</li> <li>• Would you say more about that?</li> <li>• Why do you say that?</li> <li>• Will you please repeat that idea/question?</li> <li>• Will you please explain that again?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you assuming?</li> <li>• What is Karen assuming?</li> <li>• What could we assume instead?</li> <li>• You seem to be assuming.... Do I understand you correctly?</li> <li>• All of your reasoning depends on the idea that.... Why have you based your reasoning on ...rather than...?</li> <li>• You seem to be assuming.... How would you justify taking that for granted?</li> <li>• Is it always the case? Why do you think the assumption holds here?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would be an example?</li> <li>• What are your reasons for saying that?</li> <li>• What other information do we need to know?</li> <li>• Could you explain your reasons to us?</li> <li>• Is that good evidence for believing that?</li> <li>• Are those reasons adequate?</li> <li>• Is there reason to doubt that evidence?</li> <li>• Who is in a position to know if that is the case?</li> <li>• What would you say to someone who said...?</li> <li>• What do you think the cause is?</li> <li>• By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?</li> <li>• How could we go about finding out whether that is true?</li> <li>• Can someone else give evidence to support that response?</li> <li>• How do you know?</li> <li>• Why did you say that?</li> <li>• Why do you think that is true?</li> <li>• What led you to that belief?</li> <li>• Do you have any evidence for that?</li> <li>• How does that apply to this case?</li> <li>• What difference does that make?</li> <li>• What would convince you otherwise?</li> <li>• What accounts for that?</li> <li>• How did this come about?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Questions about Viewpoints or Perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You seem to be approaching the issue from... perspective. Why have you chosen this rather than that perspective?</li> <li>How would other groups/types of people respond? Why? What would influence them?</li> <li>How could you answer the objection that ... would make?</li> <li>Can/did anyone see this another way?</li> <li>What would someone who disagrees say?</li> <li>What is an alternative?</li> <li>How are Ken's and Roxanne's ideas alike? Different?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are you implying by that?</li> <li>When you say..., are you implying...?</li> <li>But if that happened, what else would also happen as a result? Why?</li> <li>What effect would that have?</li> <li>Would that necessarily happen or only probably happen?</li> <li>What is an alternative?</li> <li>If this and this are the case, then what else must be true?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Questions about the Question</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can we find out?</li> <li>How could someone settle this question?</li> <li>Is the question clear? Do we understand it?</li> <li>Is this question easy or hard to answer? Why?</li> <li>Would ... put the question differently?</li> <li>Does this question ask us to evaluate something?</li> <li>Do we all agree that this is the question?</li> <li>To answer this question, what do we have to answer first?</li> <li>I'm not sure I understand how you are interpreting the main question at issue.</li> <li>Is this the same issue as ...?</li> <li>Can we break this question down at all?</li> <li>How would ... put this issue?</li> <li>What does this question assume?</li> <li>Why is this question important?</li> <li>Do we need facts to answer this?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Paraphrasing Others' Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So, you think that...</li> <li>So, you are saying that...</li> <li>In other words, you believe...</li> <li>In your opinion...</li> <li>If I understand you correctly, you think...</li> <li>You mean to say that...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acknowledging Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My idea is similar to / related to Yuriko's...</li> <li>I agree with Yuriko that...</li> <li>My idea builds on Yuriko's...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Holding the Floor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As I was saying...</li> <li>If I could finish my thought...</li> <li>What I was trying to say was...</li> <li>Excuse me, I'd like to finish my idea first...</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disagreeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I don't agree with you because...</li> <li>I found out from ... that...</li> <li>... pointed out to me that...</li> <li>I agree with you to a certain extent, however...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individual/Group Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I/We agreed /concluded/ decided/ believe/think that...</li> <li>I/We thought of a different approach...</li> <li>My/Our ideas is/are similar to others, however...</li> </ul>	