

Socratic Questioning

Challenge assumptions and flaws to deepen understanding



Question prompt card!

How do you think he is feeling?

Why do you say that?

What could we assume instead?

How do you know that?

What is another way to explain his feelings?

What are you implying?

How does this tie in with what we have learned already?

Do his feelings change?

When does this happen?

Why does this happen?

Socratic Questioning



R.W. Paul's Six Types of Socratic Questions

1. Questions for clarification:	Why do you say that? How does this relate to our discussion? "Are you going to include"?
2. Questions that probe assumptions:	What could we assume instead? How can you verify or disapprove that assumption? "Why are you doing.....and not.....?"
3. Questions that probe reasons and evidence:	What would be an example? What is....analogous to? What do you think causes to happen...? Why:?" "Do you think that is responsible for"?"
4. Questions about Viewpoints and Perspectives:	What is another way to look at it? Explain why it is necessary or beneficial, and who benefits? What are the strengths and weaknesses of...? How are...and ...similar? "Considering....., do you think that will affect"?"
5. Questions that probe implications and consequences:	What generalizations can you make? What are the consequences of that assumption? What are you implying? How does...affect...? How does...tie in with what we learned before? "How would our results be affected if I neglected"?"
6. Questions about the question:	What was the point of this question? Why do you think I asked this question? What does...mean? How does...apply to everyday life? "Why do you think is important?"