

FIGURE 5.4

Socratic Questioning

Type of Question	Purpose: To help students	Sample Questions
Seeking Clarifications	Think more clearly about the concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you say more about that? • Can you give an example? • How does this relate to your background knowledge or experience, or how does this relate to our discussion?
Probing Assumptions	Think about the assumptions on which they are basing their opinions or arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your assumptions that cause you to believe that? • How did you arrive at that assumption, and can you prove it is true? • Are there other plausible assumptions?
Probing Reasons and Evidence	Think about their reasoning and the evidence they are using to support their arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you know this is true? • What is your evidence? • What evidence could be used to refute your argument?
Questioning Viewpoints and Perspectives	Think about equally valid alternative viewpoints and perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could you look at this from another perspective? • What is the difference between your viewpoint and another perspective? • Why is your perspective more valid than another viewpoint?
Probing Implications and Consequences	Think about the logic and desirability of their perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this affect . . . ? • What are the intended consequences of that outcome? • What might be the unintended consequences?
Questioning the Question	Think about the effectiveness of the question itself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was this an effective question in terms of thinking about . . . ? Why or why not? • What question would have been more effective? • Why do we ask questions to support learning?

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