

Question Stems that Deepen Discussion  
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition, 2015

Adapted from “Tutorial on Problem-Based Learning: Taxonomy of Socratic Questioning” retrieved from [http://ed.fnal.gov/trc\\_new/tutorial/taxonomy.html](http://ed.fnal.gov/trc_new/tutorial/taxonomy.html), October 10, 2014. In turn, this table was adapted from Paul, Richard, *Critical Thinking: How to Prepare Students for a Rapidly Changing World*, 1993.

Questions that Probe Reasons and Evidence		
Questions of Clarification	Questions that Probe Assumptions	Questions that Probe Reasons and Evidence
What do you mean by ____?	What are you assuming?	What would be an example?
What is your main point?	What is Jenny assuming?	How do you know?
How does ____ relate to ____?	What could we assume instead?	Why do you think that is true? Why do you say that?
Could you put that another way?	You seem to be assuming ____. Do I understand you correctly?	Do you have any evidence for that?
Is your basic point ____ or ____?	All of your reasoning depends on the idea that _____. Why have you based your reasoning on ____ instead of ____?	What are your reasons for saying that?
What do you think is the main issue here?	You seem to be assuming ____. How do you justify taking that for granted?	What led you to that belief?
Let me see if I understand you; do you mean ____ or ____?	Is that always the case? Why do you think the assumption holds here?	How does that apply to this case?
How does this relate to our problem/discussion/issue?	Why would someone make that assumption?	What would change your mind?
Jane, can you summarize in your own words what Richard said? . . . Richard, is this what you meant?	<u>STEMS YOU LIKE (TWEAK OR ADD YOUR OWN TOO):</u>	I'm wondering if that is good evidence for that belief?
Could you give me an example?		Is there a reason to doubt that evidence?
Would this be an example, . . .?		Who is in a position to know that is true?
Could you explain this further?		Can someone else give evidence to support that view?
Would you say more about that?		By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?
<u>STEMS YOU LIKE (TWEAK OR ADD YOUR OWN TOO):</u>		<u>STEMS YOU LIKE (TWEAK OR ADD YOUR OWN TOO):</u>

<b>Questions about Viewpoints or Perspectives</b>	<b>Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences</b>	
<p><i>The term "imply" will require clarification when used with younger students.</i></p> <p>What are you implying by that?</p> <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> <p>If we say that _____ is ethical, how about _____?</p> <p><u>STEMS YOU LIKE (TWEAK OR ADD YOUR OWN TOO):</u></p>	<p>How can we find out?</p> <p>What does this question assume?</p> <p>Would _____ ask this question differently?</p> <p>How could someone settle this question?</p> <p>Can we break this question down at all?</p> <p>Is this question clear? Do we understand it?</p> <p>Do we all agree that this is the question?</p> <p>To answer this question, what other questions must we answer first?</p> <p>I'm not sure I understand how you are interpreting this question. Is this the same as _____?</p> <p>How would _____ state the issue?</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> <p><u>STEMS YOU LIKE (TWEAK OR ADD YOUR OWN TOO):</u></p>	