

Helpful Questions for the Facilitator

By asking these sorts of questions, your students will develop their own ideas more thoroughly, and will learn to challenge others with similar questions. [Skills and vocabulary follow each section]:

Questions seeking clarification:

Can you explain that...? What do you mean by...? Can you give me an example of...? How does that help...? Does anyone have a question to ask about that idea?

[Explaining, defining, giving examples, supporting, enquiring]

Questions that ask for reasons and evidence:

Why do you think that...? How do we know that...? What are your reasons for...? Do you have evidence of...? Can you justify your opinion?

[Forming an argument, assumptions, reasons, evidence]

Questions that explore alternative views:

Can you put it another way...? Is there another point of view...? What if someone suggested that...? What would someone who disagreed with you say? What is the difference between that view and...?

[Re-stating a view, speculation, distinctions, alternative views]

Questions that test implications and consequences:

What follows (what can we work out) from what you say? Does that view agree with what was said earlier? What would be the consequences of that? Is there a general rule for that? How would you test to see if that was true? [Implications, consistency, consequences, testing for truth]

Questions about the question or dialogue:

What kind of question is that? How does that help us with the question we are asking? Where have we got to with our question? Can someone summarise our progress so far? Are we any closer to answering our question? Where did we get stuck with the question? What should we change about how we explore our next enquiry?

[Questioning, analysing, connecting, summarising]