



Probing Questions

Use probing questions when leading discussions. Good probing questions are short, allow for multiple responses, allow students to solve their own problems, move thinking from reaction to reflection, encourage multiple perspectives, avoid yes/no responses, and elicit a slow, thoughtful response. Here are some starter questions.

1. Why do you think this is the case?
2. What would have to change in order for...?
3. What is another way you might...?
4. What would it look like if...?
5. What do you think would happen if...?
6. How was...different from ...?
7. What sort of an impact do you think...?
8. What criteria did you use to...?
9. When have you done/experienced something like this before?
10. What might you see happening if...?
11. How did you decide/determine/conclude...?
12. What is your hunch about...?
13. What was your intention when...?
14. What do you assume to be true about...?
15. What is the connection between...and...?
16. What if the opposite were true? Then what?
17. How might your assumptions about ...have influenced how you are thinking about...?
18. Why is this a dilemma for you?
19. What other approaches have you considered?
20. What have you observed that makes you arrive at that conclusion?