

Seminar Questioning Cheat Sheet

Clarification Questions:

- ◆ What do you mean by _____?
- ◆ What is your main point?
- ◆ How does _____ relate to _____?
- ◆ Could you put that another way?
- ◆ What do you think is the main issue here?
- ◆ Let me see if I understand you; do you mean _____ or _____?
- ◆ Jane, would you summarize in your own words what Juan has said?... Juan, is that what you meant?
- ◆ Could you give me an example?
- ◆ Would this be an example: _____?
- ◆ Could you explain that further?
- ◆ Could you expand upon that?

Questions About the Initial Question or Issue:

- ◆ How can we find out?
- ◆ What does this question assume?
- ◆ Would _____ put the question differently?
- ◆ How could someone settle this question?
- ◆ Can we break this question down at all?
- ◆ Is the question clear? Do we understand it?
- ◆ Is this question easy or hard to answer? Why?
- ◆ Does this question ask us to evaluate something?
- ◆ Do we all agree that this is the question?
- ◆ To answer this question, what question would we have to answer first?
- ◆ I'm not sure I understand how you are interpreting the main question at issue.
- ◆ Is this the same issue as _____?
- ◆ How would _____ put this issue?
- ◆ Why is this question important?
- ◆ Does this question lead to other questions or issues?

Assumption Probes:

- ◆ What are you assuming?
- ◆ What is Erika assuming?
- ◆ What could we assume instead?
- ◆ You seem to be assuming _____. Do I understand you correctly?
- ◆ All of your reasoning depends on the idea that _____. Why have you based your reasoning on _____ rather than _____?
- ◆ You seem to be assuming _____. How would you justify taking this for granted?
- ◆ Why would someone make this assumption?

Reason and Evidence Probes:

- ◆ What would be an example?
- ◆ How do you know?
- ◆ Why do you think that is true?
- ◆ Do you have any evidence for that?
- ◆ What difference does that make?
- ◆ What are your reasons for saying that?
- ◆ What other information do we need?

Reason and Evidence Probes (continued):

- ◆ Could you explain your reasons to us?
- ◆ Are these reasons adequate?
- ◆ Can you explain how you logically got from _____ to _____?
- ◆ Do you see any difficulties with their reasoning here?
- ◆ Why did you say that?
- ◆ What led you to that belief?
- ◆ How does that apply to this case?
- ◆ What would change your mind?
- ◆ But is that good evidence to believe that?
- ◆ Is there a reason to doubt that evidence?
- ◆ Who is in a position to know if that is so?
- ◆ What would you say to someone who said _____?
- ◆ Can someone else give evidence to support that response?
- ◆ By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?
- ◆ How could we find out whether that is true?

Origin or Source Questions:

- ◆ Where did you get this idea?
- ◆ Do your friends or family feel the same way?
- ◆ Has the media influenced you?
- ◆ Have you always felt this way?
- ◆ What caused you to feel this way?
- ◆ Did you originate this idea or get it from someone else?

Implication and Consequence Probes:

- ◆ What are you implying by that?
- ◆ When you say _____, are you implying _____?
- ◆ But if that happened, what else would happen as a result? Why?
- ◆ What effect would that have?
- ◆ Would that necessarily happen or only probably happen?
- ◆ What is the probability of this result?
- ◆ What is an alternative?
- ◆ If this and this are the case, then what else must also be true?
- ◆ If we say that this is unethical, how about that?

Viewpoint Questions:

- ◆ You seem to be approaching this issue from _____ perspective. Why have you chosen this rather than that perspective?
- ◆ How would other groups/types of people respond? Why? What would influence them?
- ◆ How could you answer the objection that _____ would make?
- ◆ What might someone who believed _____ think?
- ◆ Can/did anyone see this another way?
- ◆ What would someone who disagrees say?
- ◆ What is an alternative?
- ◆ How are Hillary and Gombu's ideas alike? Different?