

## Critical Thinking: A list of questions

If you are having a difficult time formulating questions to ask about a text, the below list is designed to help you. Use the below questions to think about your chosen text in a deeper way.

<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... is the author?</li> <li>... benefits from this?</li> <li>... is this harmful to?</li> <li>... makes decisions about this?</li> <li>... is most directly affected?</li> <li>... have you also heard discuss this?</li> <li>... would be the best person to consult</li> <li>... will be the key person in this?</li> <li>... deserves recognition for this?</li> </ul>
<b>Whose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... voice is not being heard?</li> <li>... interests are not being</li> </ul>
<b>What</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... are the strengths/weaknesses?</li> <li>... is another perspective?</li> <li>... in another alternative?</li> <li>... would be a counter argument?</li> <li>... is the best/worst case scenario?</li> <li>... is most/least important?</li> <li>... can we do to make positive change?</li> <li>... is getting in the way of this action?</li> </ul>
<b>Where</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... would we see this in the real world?</li> <li>... are there similar concepts/situations?</li> <li>... is there the most need for this?</li> <li>... in the world would this be a problem?</li> <li>... can we get more information?</li> </ul>

	<p>... do we go for help with this?</p> <p>... has this been tried before?</p> <p>... will this idea take us?</p> <p>... are the areas of improvement?</p>
<b>When</b>	<p>... is this acceptable/unacceptable?</p> <p>... would this benefit our society?</p> <p>... would this cause a problem?</p> <p>... is the best time to take action?</p> <p>... will we know we've succeeded?</p> <p>... has this played a part of our history?</p> <p>... can we expect this to change?</p> <p>... should we ask for help with this?</p>
<b>Why</b>	<p>... is this a problem/challenge?</p> <p>... is it relevant to me/others?</p> <p>... is this the best/worst scenario?</p> <p>... should people know about this?</p> <p>... has it been this way for so long?</p> <p>... has we allowed this to happen?</p> <p>... is there a need for this today?</p>
<b>How</b>	<p>... is this similar to _____?</p> <p>... is this different from _____?</p> <p>... does this disrupt things?</p> <p>... do we know the truth about this?</p> <p>.... Will we approach this safely?</p> <p>... does this benefit us/other?</p> <p>... does this harm us/others?</p> <p>... do we see this is the future?</p> <p>... can we change this for our good?</p>

### **Questions for Clarification**

- What do you mean by \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is your main point?
- How does \_\_\_\_\_ relate to \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you put it another way?
- What do you think is the main issue here?
- Let me see if I understand you: do you mean \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you give me an example?
- Would this be an example: \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you explain that further?

### **Questions about the Initial Question or Issue**

- How can we find out?
- What does this question assume?
- Would \_\_\_\_\_ put the question differently?
- Can we break this question down at all?
- Does this question lead to other questions or issues?

### **Questions that Probe Assumptions**

- What are you assuming?
- What could we assume instead?
- You seem to be assuming \_\_\_\_\_. Do I understand you correctly?
- How would you justify taking this for granted?
- Is this always the case? Why do you think the assumption holds here?

### **Questions that Probe Reasons and Evidence**

- What would be an example?
- Could you explain your reasons to us?
- Are those reasons adequate?
- Do you have any evidence for that?
- How could we find out if that is true?

### **Questions that Probe Origin or Source Questions**

- Where did you get this idea?
- What caused you to feel this way?

### **Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences**

- What are you implying by that?
- What effect would that have?
- What is an alternative?
- If this is the case, then what else must be true?

### **Questions about Viewpoints or Perspectives**

- How would other groups of people respond? Why?
- How could you answer the objection that \_\_\_ would make?
- Can anyone see this another way?
- What would someone who disagrees say?