Socratic Questioning
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In her book *The Power of Inquiry*, Kath Murdoch highlights Socratic questioning as an effective way to encourage learners to inquire into their own thinking and explore more deeply what, how and why they think.

Socrates was famous for his use of questions as an instructional tool, preferring to draw his pupils towards deeper thinking through questions rather than direct statements.

The following pages outline examples of different question stems that could be used in the classroom to:

- clarify
- probe assumptions
- justify and seek evidence
- elicit other perspectives and viewpoints
- explore/ reveal implications and consequences
- think about the question itself
Questions to Clarify

• What do you mean by....

• Are you saying....

• Could you restate that in another way?

• How does that connect with... (the idea/ concept/ text being discussed)
Questions to Probe Assumptions

• What makes you say that?
• Where did you get that idea from?
• Might there be another way of looking at that?
• Can you elaborate on your thinking?
Questions to Justify & Seek Evidence

- Can you give me an example of....
- How do you know that....
- How might someone argue against that?
- Why do you think so?
- Can you support your thinking with evidence?
- What would you need to change your thinking?
Questions to Elicit Other Perspectives & Viewpoints

- What's another way of looking at this?
- If you were.... what might you say/ do/ think?
- How does this compare with.....'s view?
- Who would agree with you? Who would disagree?
- How does this fit with what you already know?
Questions to Explore/Reveal Implications & Consequences

- So if this is true, what would it mean for....
- What might that lead to?
- What if this is not the case?
- What would happen if...
- What lies beneath the surface of this?
- What's at the core or center of this?
Questions to Think About the Question Itself

• Why do you think this question is important?

• Is there a better way of asking this?

• If we asked the question this way, how would our thinking change?