

Assessing Projects: Checking Understanding Informal Question Examples

Assessing Critical Thinking

While circulating around the classroom and observing group discussions, pose the following questions to assess students' critical-thinking abilities. Keep notes on individual students and use during conferences to provide feedback and to assess at the end of the project.

Examples of Questions	Notes
<p>Questions of clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you give me an example? • Is your basic point ___or___ ? • How does___ relate to ___? • Could you explain that further? • Why do you say that? 	
<p>Questions that probe assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is being assumed? • Why would somebody say that? • How would you justify taking this view? • Is this always the case? 	
<p>Questions that probe reasons and evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could we go about finding out whether that is true? • Is there reason to doubt that evidence? • What would be an example? • What led you to that belief? • What criteria do you base that argument on? • Why do you think that is right? • How does that apply in this case? • By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion? • Who is in a position to know if that is the case? 	
<p>Questions about viewpoints or perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would other groups or types of people respond? Why? What would influence them? 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would people who disagree with this viewpoint argue their case?• Did anyone see this another way?• What is an alternative?• What would be another way of saying that?	
<p>Questions that probe implications and consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What effect would that have?• If this and this are the case, then what else must also be true?• What are you implying by that?• How do you know you've considered the consequences?	
<p>Questions about the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To answer this question, what questions would we have to answer first?• Is this the same issue as...?• How is that question going to help you? Can you think of any other questions that might be useful?• Is this question easy or hard to answer? Why?	