

SOCRATIC INQUIRY FOR PROJECT COACHING

Socratic Inquiry to Learn, Listen,
and Deepen Understanding

Project Coaching: Socratic Inquiry to Learn, Listen, and Deepen Understanding

Agree / Disagree

- Has anyone else had a similar . . . ?
- Who has a different . . . ?

Clarification

- I'm not sure I understand . . . ?
- Tell me more about . . . ?
- Do you see gaps in my reasoning?
- Are you taking into account something different from what I have considered?

Support Questions

- Can you give us an example of . . . ?
- Where in the story . . . ?
- What would be a good reason for . . . ?
- What is some evidence for . . . ?

Cause and Effect

- Why do you think that happened?
- How could that have been prevented?
- Do you think that would happen that way again? Why?
- What are some reasons people . . . ?

Compare / Contrast

- How are _____ and _____ alike? Different?
- What is that similar to?
- Can you think of why this feels different than . . . ?
- How does this (poem, book, incident, etc.) remind you of . . . ?

Benefits / Burdens

- What are some of the reasons this wouldn't (would) be a good idea?
- Would anyone like to speak to the opposite side?
- Those are some reasons this would work; what reasons might it not work?

Point of View / Perspective

- How might she/he have felt . . . ?
- What do you think he/she was thinking when . . . ?
- He might not like that, but can you think of someone who would?
- _____ has expressed a different opinion. Are there others?
- Do you have a different interpretation?
- Do you have different conclusions?
- How did you arrive at your view?

Structure / Function

- If that was the goal, what do you think about? . (The action, reaction)?
- What were her/his choices of how to . . . ?
- Why was she/he doing that? (Reply gives reason) What do you think of that approach?
- What better choices could he/she have made?

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Listening principles for sustaining a learning community
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Counterexample

- Would that still happen if . . . ?
- What might have made the difference?

Different Situation

- Can you describe a situation that would . . . ?
- Suppose _____. Would that still be true? Why or why not?

Solicit Questions

- What are some things that you wonder about?
- What would you like to know about?
- Are there questions we should remember now?

Personal Experience

- What would you do in that situation?
- Has anything like that ever happened to you?
- In what way are you alike or different from . . . ?