

Critical Thinking Standards

fact questions

Clarity

- could you elaborate further?
- could you give me an example?
- could you illustrate what you mean?

Accuracy

- how could we check on that?
- how could we find out if that's true?
- how could we verify or test that?

Precision

- could you be more specific?
- could you give me more detail?
- could you be more exact?

Relevance

- how does that relate to the problem?
- how does that bear on the question?
- how does that help us with the issue?

analysis questions

Depth

- what factors make this a difficult problem?
- what are some of the complexities of this question?
- what are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?

Breadth

- do we need to look at this from another perspective?
- do we need to consider another point of view?

holistic questions

Fairness

- do I have any vested interest here?
- have I represented this viewpoint in such a way that the person who holds it would agree with my characterization?

Significance

- is this the most important issue/problem to consider?
- is this the central idea to focus on?
- which of these facts is most important?

Logic

- does all this make sense together?
- does your first paragraph fit with your last?
- does what you say follow from evidence?