

Engaging Material Through Questions

SEEKING CLARIFICATIONS

- What do we already know?
- How does...relate to our discussion?
- Why are you saying...?
- Can you give me an example of...?

EXAMINING ASSUMPTIONS

- How did you choose your assumptions?
- What would happen if...?
- How can you verify or disprove your assumptions?
- Can we make different assumptions?
- How robust is this assumption?

EVALUATING EVIDENCE FOR ARGUMENTS

- How do you know...?
- What evidence is there that supports...?
- How might you refute...?

QUESTIONING VIEWPOINTS

- Are there alternative ways to consider...?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?
- What viewpoints do others have regarding...?

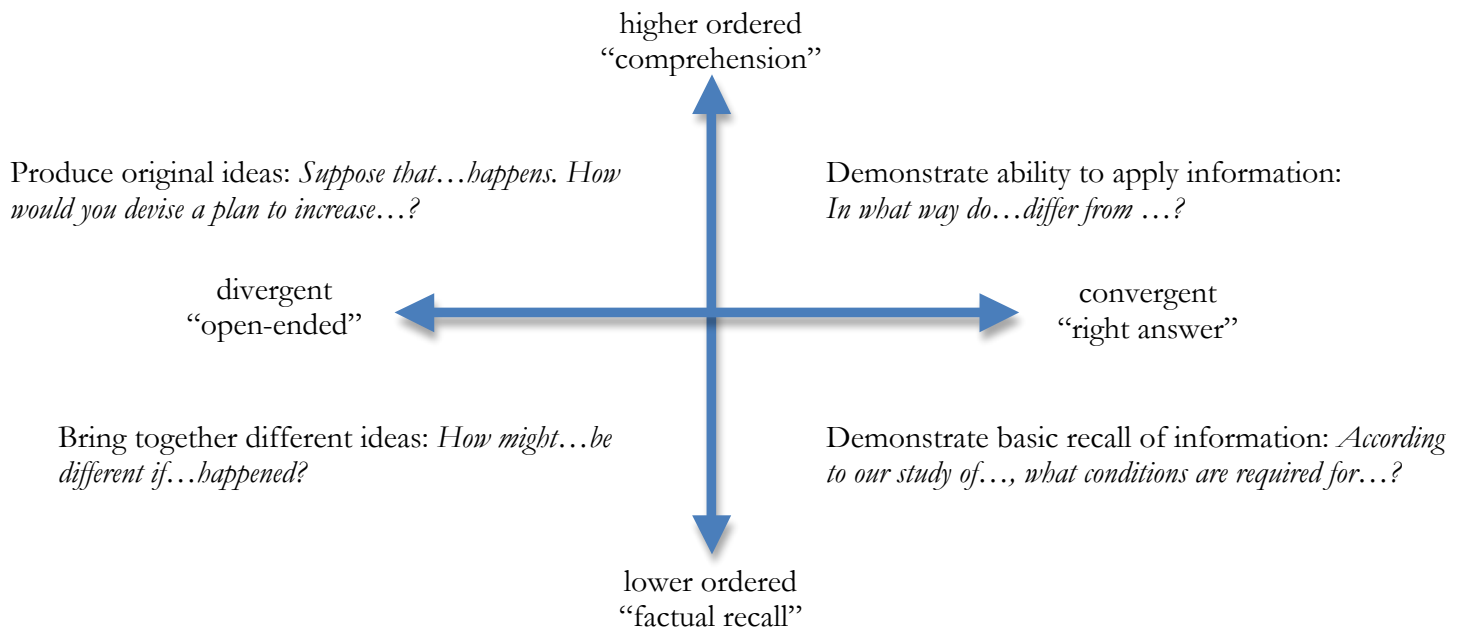
CONSIDERING CONSEQUENCES

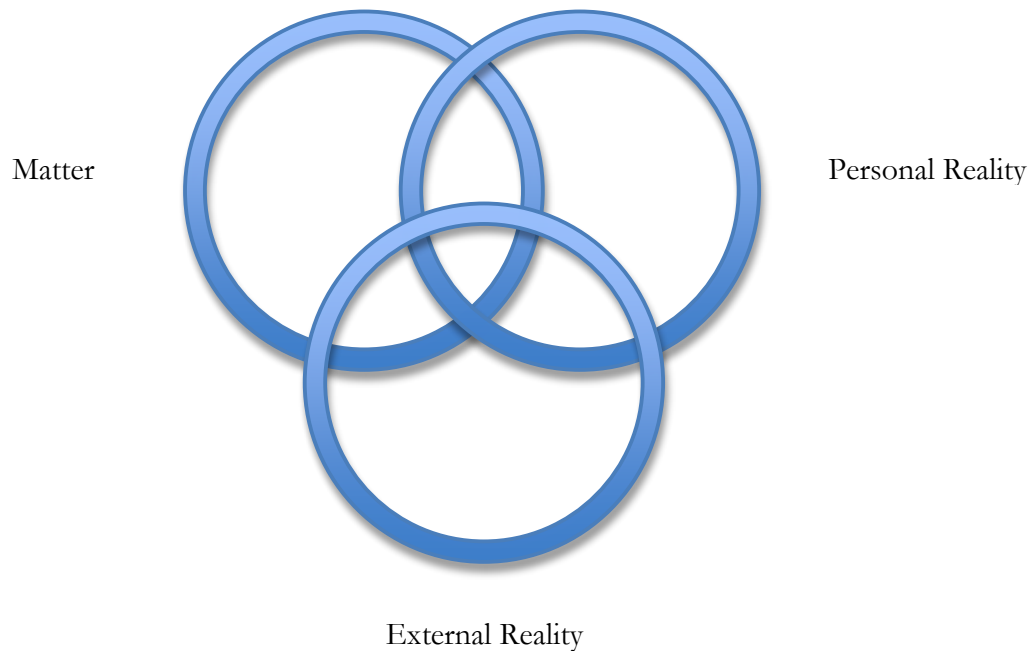
- How does...fit with what our experience that tells us...?
- How does...affect...?

QUESTIONING THE QUESTION

- What does...mean?
- Why do you think I asked that question?
- What is the point of this question?

Socratic Method





SINGLE AREAS: SIMPLE QUESTIONS

matter: probe basic, factual information regarding the subject

personal reality: probe your thoughts, interest, and opinions (personal context)

external reality: probe events and situations in a specific cultural/societal context

TWO AREAS: MORE NUANCED QUESTIONS

matter–personal reality: probe your thoughts, interests, and opinions relative to specific subject

matter–external reality: consider a subject relative to a specific cultural/societal context

personal reality–external reality: consider yourself within a specific cultural/societal context

THREE AREAS: DENSE, RICH QUESTIONS

matter–personal reality–external reality: consider your relationship to a particular subject within a specific cultural/societal context

Source: McComas, W. F., Abraham, L. “Asking More Effective Questions.”

http://cet.usc.edu/resources/teaching_learning/docs/Asking_Better_Questions.pdf (accessed 8/24/13)