

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 1 - Snippet 21

Could you find a question to the answer “*Hm, I was just repeating what other students say. I guess I should ask them why they believe that?*”

A possible question that probes reasons and evidence could be:

What led you believe that? What evidence do you have for that?

That's the fourth type of questions:

4) Questions about viewpoints

Questions about viewpoints are asked to clarify the perspective from which someone looks at the issue under discussion. People from different groups may approach the issue differently, given their background and experience. Some examples:

- a. What perspective are you approaching this issue from?
- b. Could anyone see this another way? What other approaches could there be?
- c. What would someone who disagrees with you say?
- d. How are these viewpoints different / similar?



Q&A activity - Questions about viewpoints

Imagine this situation: You are discussing the impact of climate change with the local politician X who happens to have been working as a scientist. When X says that we have the responsibility to take into account the impact of global warming on our environment, you are wondering whether X speaks as politician or scientist.

Compose a question about viewpoints that could lead to the answer below:

Answer: I don't think scientists and politicians need to come from different points of view. There are many politicians who studied science and I'm actually a scientist who is engaged in politics.