

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

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