

Types of Questions: Inquiry Springboards



Values Questions

*(What's right? What do I believe?
What's important?)*

- eg) Should people give money to people begging on the street?
- eg) Do the needs of the many always outweigh the needs of the few?

System Questions

(How does this work? How well does it do what is intended?)

- eg) Is there a real system for winning poker, or is it just luck? Is it about math or psychology?
- eg) How is the internet structured? Is it the same now as it was when it started? Is it sustainable?
- eg) Do different musical scales allow for more or less creativity in composition or performance?

Cause & Effect Questions

(Where will this lead? What if?)

- eg) If the earth had two moons opposite one another, would we no longer have tides?
- eg) Do different colours affect people psychologically? If so, how? How could this be used practically?
- eg) Will global climate change create the conditions for more human conflict?

Theoretical Questions

(How did we get here?)

- eg) How did we end up with the legal system like the one we have?
- eg) Why does the world exist?
- eg) How did the whole world end up using the same form of music notation?

Descriptive Questions

(What happened? What is this?)

- eg) Why are people talking about oil pipelines so much? Where does the pipeline go? What's bitumen?
- eg) When did World War One start? Who was in it? How did it end? Is it related to World War Two?
- eg) What were the events that led up to Canada's confederation?