

Procedural Questions for Facilitation

There is a broad range of questions the facilitator will regularly select from to enable philosophical progress and depth when inquiring around any philosophical questions.

These can be considered, or grouped, in numerous ways and it is useful for the facilitator to reflect on the procedural questions used during an inquiry when considering the progress of an inquiry as well as the progress of the community.

1. Questions of **Meaning**

*Could you **explain** what you mean (or give an **example**)?*

*How can we **connect**, or **distinguish** between, the concepts, X and Y?*

2. Questions of **Truth**

*What **evidence** or **experience** is that **assertion** (or **assumption**) based on?*

*Is that true in **all** cases, or are there **exceptions**, so that it is only **probable**?*

3. Questions of **Validity**

*What **assumptions** are being made here?*

*What are the **implications** of this, or what **follows** from it? (or, **So, what?**)*

4. Questions of **Value**

*What **lessons** can we draw from this? (or, **So what?**)*

*What is **interesting**, or **important**, in this?*

Procedural Question Stems for Facilitation

Information-processing questions (listening and clarifying):

- Could you explain what you mean?
- Can someone give an example?
- I'm not sure I understand, are you saying...?
- Can you tell us a little bit more about your thinking there?

Reasoning questions (expanding and probing):

- What are your reasons for saying that?
- Do we have any evidence?
- Why do you think that is the case?
- How do you know?
- How could we answer that?

Enquiry questions (connecting, generalising, making distinctions):

- So you agree/disagree with...?
- What is the best question to ask?
- Can you give an example/ counter-example?
- If you say that, does it follow that...?
- Is that always the case or only sometimes?
- What are the exceptions?
- Is that the same as...?
- Are you saying exactly what you were saying before?
- Does your idea connect with...?

Creative thinking questions (speculating, exploring implications and larger context):

- What if...?
- Does ...imply ...?
- Is it possible that...?
- Is that relevant to what we are saying here?
- Does this change our perspective?
- Can we think of other reasons to support this view?

Evaluation questions (evaluating, reviewing, concluding, summarising):

- Has anyone changed their mind?
- Have we reached any conclusions?
- What made us think of...?
- Can anyone summarise what we have said so far?
- Do we all understand the differences of opinion on this?
- Has anyone changed their mind in this discussion?
- Have you learned anything new?