

## Help Students Develop Productive Questioning Skills

Providing guidance to students about asking productive questions may not only enrich their discussions, it can also help them develop this important lifelong skill for collaboration, management, leadership, creative processes, and interpersonal relationships. Below are some question types that may be useful to students for engaging in their small group discussions. Provide this or a similar resource, and explain to students that asking productive questions is a key life skill as well as a critical component of effective participation in the online discussion forums.

<p><b>Clarifying Questions</b>          Help draw out more information and dig deeper into the meaning or intention.          Useful when you have a negative reaction to what someone posted, allows you to understand their perspective better.</p>	<p><i>I am a little unclear about what you meant by that; can you provide an example?</i>  <i>Can you tell me more about how you arrived at that perspective?</i></p>
<p><b>Adjoining Questions</b>          Help expand the discussion by exploring different ways to think about or look at the problem, issue, or discussion.</p>	<p><i>How would this apply to a different context?</i>  <i>What are some other possible applications?</i></p>
<p><b>Funneling Questions</b>          Help challenge assumptions and analyze the deeper issues.</p>	<p><i>What is missing from our analysis?</i>  <i>What would change if X changed?</i>  <i>Is there another way to approach this problem?</i></p>
<p><b>Elevating Questions</b>          Help broaden the discussion and connect to a bigger picture.          Help build connections and identify larger trends.</p>	<p><i>How do these issues tie together?</i>  <i>How does this problem connect to larger issues?</i>  <i>Are we asking the right questions?</i></p>

Source: Pohlmann, T., & Thomas, N. M. (2015, March 27). Relearning the art of asking questions. *Harvard Business Review*. Retrieved from <https://hbr.org/2015/03/relearning-the-art-of-asking-questions>