

Socratic Questions for Clinical Practice

Clarification Questions

- Tell me about your client's condition/problems/needs
- What are the most important client/family/community problems? Why?
- What do you mean when you say _____?
- Give me an example of _____.
- How does this new information relate to our earlier discussion of the family's care?

Questions to Probe Assumptions

- You seem to be assuming that your client's responses are due to _____. Tell me more about your thinking here.
- On what data have you based your decisions? Why?
- Your decisions about this client/family/community are based on your assumptions that _____. Is this always the case? Why or why not?

Questions to Probe Reasons

- How do you know that _____? What are other possible reasons for _____?
- Tell me why?
- What would do if _____? Why?
- Is there a reason to question this information? Decision? Approach? Why?

Questions on Differing Perspectives

- What are other possibilities? Alternatives?
- How might the client/family view this situation? Does anyone view this differently? (in the clinical group) Why?
- Tell me about different interventions that might be possible and why each one would be appropriate.
- What are other ways of approaching the staff?

Questions on Consequences

- If this occurs, what would you expect to happen next? Why?
- What are the consequences of each of these possible approaches? What would you do in this situation and why?
- What would be the effect of _____ on the community?
- If this is true, then what?