Questions for Socratic Dialogue

Questions for Clarification
• What do you mean by...?
• What is your main point?
• How does ___________________________ relate to ___________________________ ?
• Could you put that another way?
• Could you give me an example?
• Could you explain that further?
• Why do you say that?

Questions That Probe Purpose
• What is the purpose of ___________________________?
• How do the purposes of these two people/groups vary?
• What is the purpose of the main character in this story?
• How did the purpose of this character change during the story?
• Was this purpose justifiable?

Questions That Probe Assumptions
• What are you assuming?
• What could we assume instead?
• You seem to be assuming ___________________________. Do I understand you correctly?
• All of your reasoning depends on the idea that ___________________________.
• Why have you based your reasoning on ___________________________, rather than ___________________________?
• Is it always the case? Why do you think that the assumption holds here?

Questions That Probe Information, Reasons, Evidence, and Causes
• What would be an example?
• How do you know?
• What are your reasons for saying that?
• What other information do we need to know before we can address this question?
• Why do you think that is true?
• Could you explain your reasons to us?
• Do you have any evidence to support your assertion?
• How does that information apply to this?
• Is there reason to doubt that evidence?
• What would convince you otherwise?
• What accounts for ___________________________?
• What do you think is the cause?
• How did this come about?
• By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?
• How could we go about finding out whether that is true?