

FOUR KINDS OF QUESTIONS FOR ANY POSITION

1. ORIGINS

- HOW DID YOU COME TO THINK THIS?
- CAN YOU REMEMBER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH YOU FORMED THIS BELIEF?

2. SUPPORT

- WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?
- DO YOU HAVE EVIDENCE FOR THIS?
- WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY PEOPLE BELIEVE THIS?
- IN BELIEVING THIS, AREN'T YOU ASSUMING THAT SUCH AND SUCH IS TRUE? IS THAT A SOUND ASSUMPTION DO YOU THINK?

3. CONFLICT WITH OTHER THOUGHTS

- SOME PEOPLE MIGHT OBJECT TO YOUR POSITION BY SAYING . . .
- HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THEM?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CONTRASTING VIEW?
- HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THE OBJECTION THAT . . .?

4. IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

- WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF BELIEVING THIS?
- WHAT WOULD WE HAVE TO DO TO PUT IT INTO ACTION?
- WHAT FOLLOWS FROM THE VIEW THAT . . .?
- WOULDN'T WE ALSO HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT . . . IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT?
- ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT . . .?

Richard W. Paul. "Dialogical and Dialectical Thinking," *Critical Thinking: How to Prepare Students for a Rapidly Changing World*. Foundation for Critical Thinking, 1993.