The Socratic Questioning technique is an effective way to explore ideas in depth

Socratic Questioning

In this technique, the teacher professes ignorance of the topic in order to engage in dialogue with the students.

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| Type | Possible Questions |
| Clarification questions | What do you mean by…?  Could you put that another way?  What do you think is the main issue?  Could you give us an example?  Could you expand upon that point further? |
| Questions about an initial question or issue | Why is this question important?  Is this question easy or difficult to answer?  Why do you think that?  What assumptions can we make based on this question?  Does this question lead to other important issues and questions? |
| Assumption questions | Why would someone make this assumption?  What is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ assuming here?  What could we assume instead?  You seem to be assuming\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Do I understand you correctly? |
| Reason and evidence questions | What would be an example?  Why do you think this is true?  What other information do we need?  Could you explain your reason to us?  By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?  Is there reason to doubt that evidence?  What led you to that belief |
| Origin or source questions | What would be an example?  Why do you think this is true?  What other information do we need?  Could you explain your reason to us?  By what reasoning did you come to that conclusion?  Is there reason to doubt that evidence?  What led you to that belief? |
| Implication and consequence questions | What effect would that have?  Could that really happen or probably happen?  What is an alternative?  What are you implying by that?  If that happened, what else would happen as a result? Why? |
| Viewpoint questions | How would other groups of people respond this question? Why?  How could you answer the objection that \_\_\_\_\_\_would make?  What might someone who believed \_\_\_\_\_ think?  What is an alternative?  How are \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_’s ideas alike? Different? |