

The Values of Inquiry: explanations and supporting questions

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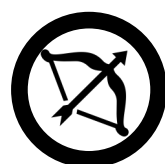
“The values of inquiry represent things that we value in the act of inquiry and hence in thinking. They provide a language for providing feedback on the quality of student thinking and so help us to *evaluate* thinking.”



Clarity

When we communicate with clarity, we ensure that our audience can understand what we mean. We are making our points as clear as possible to others.

- Are your examples useful?
- Is your argument structure clear?
- Are your diagrams easy to understand?
- Is your paragraph structure well-developed?
- Are your words well-defined and unambiguous?



Accuracy

When we communicate with accuracy, we seek to represent all information correctly and closely aligned with its original meaning.

- Is your argument sound?
- Are your claims justified?
- Is what you are saying true?
- Have you represented ideas faithfully?
- How could people check on your claim?



Precision

When we communicate with precision we are specific and intentional with our language and terminology in order to remove any potential for misunderstanding in meaning.

- Is your attention to detail sufficient?
- Have you used technical terms appropriately?
- Have you quantified your information where appropriate?
- Are any bullet points categorically distinct from each other?
- Have you identified areas of vagueness or ambiguity in your topic?



Depth

When we communicate with depth we provide detailed information and explanations to thoroughly develop our points.

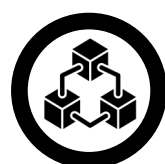
- Are the complexities of the issue sufficiently described?
- Are your analogies and generalisations well-justified?
- Do your arguments consider premises that are themselves conclusions?
- Have the problematic aspects of the issue been identified and dealt with?



Breadth

When we communicate with breadth we aim to cover a diverse range of directly relevant content and considerations in relation to the topic. This helps us to ensure that we do not ignore any key components.

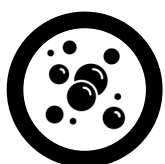
- Have you considered alternative perspectives?
- Have you represented a broad range of alternative views?
- Why have you preferred one perspective over another?
- Have you sought out others for the purpose of testing your ideas?



Relevance

When we communicate with relevance we choose information that relates directly to the points we are developing. We do not incorporate any distracting or useless information that may confuse our audience.

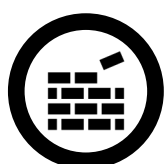
- Have you focussed on the point at issue?
- Have you selected information supporting the topic?
- Is distracting or unhelpful information minimised?
- Have you been able to identify why information is relevant?
- Have you justified why your selection of material is relevant?



Significance

When we communicate with significance we discuss the most important information that is related to the given topic. This allows us to focus on key ideas rather than distracting the audience with tangential information.

- Have you avoided superficial issues or arguments?
- Have you identified and developed your core ideas?
- Have you identified the most meaningful aspects?
- Have you focused on substantive aspects?



Coherence

When we communicate with coherence we structure our arguments in a way that makes logical sense. Each point builds towards the overall intended meaning of the piece.

- Have you avoided using logical fallacies?
- Have you avoided contradicting statements?
- Are your ideas developed in logical manner?
- Do all your premises support your conclusions?
- Have you used transition phrases to identify logical progressions?