Standard	Questions to Ask	Discussion
Clarity	• Is the meaning understandable and grasped? • Could you elaborate further? • Could you give an example?	If a statement is unclear, you cannot determine whether it is accurate or relevant. In fact, you can't tell anything about it because you don't know what it is saying. An unclear example would be saying, "It's over there."
Accuracy	• Can you verify your thinking? • Is your thinking true? • How can anyone check or test it?	A statement can be clear but not accurate, as in "Most dogs are over 300 pounds in weight."
Precision	• Could you be more specific? • Could you give more details? • Are you exact to the necessary level of detail?	A statement can be both clear and accurate, but not precise, as in "Jack is overweight." We don't know how overweight Jack is, one pound or 500 pounds.
Relevance	• How does your thinking relate to problem? • How does it bear on the question? • How does it help with the issue at hand?	A statement can be clear, accurate, and precise, but not relevant to the question at issue. Is it possible to create clear, accurate, and precise answers that are irrelevant? For example, if you are talking about an IED along a highway but the issue is how to fly the troops from one location to another then the answer is irrelevant.
Depth	• What factors make this a difficult problem? • What are some complicated issues with the problem? • What are the difficulties you need to deal with?	A statement can be clear, accurate, precise, and relevant, but lacks depth. For example, we have all heard the statement "Just say No" used to discourage children and teens from using drugs. The statement is clear, accurate, precise, and relevant, but it lacks depth because it treats an extremely complex

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		issue, drug use among young people, superficially.
Breadth	- Do you need to look at the problem from another angle? - Do you need to consider another point of view? - Do you need to look at the problem in another way?	A line of reasoning may be clear accurate, precise, relevant, and deep, but lack breadth. An example is when an argument from either a conservative or liberal standpoint gets deeply into an issue, but only recognizes the insights of one side of the question.
Logic	- Does your thinking make sense when put altogether? - Does your first paragraph fit with the last one? - Does your thinking follow the evidence?	When you think, you bring a variety of thoughts together into some order. When the combination of thoughts supports one another and makes sense together, thinking is "logical." When the combination does not, is contradictory or does not make sense, the combination is not logical.
Significance	- Is your thinking the most important problem? - What is the central idea? - What facts are most important?	Everything you think about has some significance, but does it have significance to the problem? Is your focus on the important and not trivial matters?
Fairness	- Do you have a vested interest in the issue? - Are you sympathetically looking at all view points?	Lastly, you need to make sure your thinking is justifiable, and not self-serving or one-sided.