

## WHAT MAKES A QUESTION A “GOOD” QUESTION?

Clara B. Jones, Ph.D.

The answer to this question will vary with the evaluator; however, there are some general guidelines that can be used to determine if a question is a “good” question. For example:

1. All good questions will have one or more of the following properties:
  - a. they may be **inductive**, going from specific facts or observations to general principles; or,
  - b. they may be **deductive**, going from general principles to specific situations; in addition,
  - c. all good questions are **logical** (proceeding from given information or references to new conclusions on the basis of explicit rules (the rules of logic), or
  - d. **illogical**, involving intuition, association, or personal experience.
  
2. All good questions usually have one or more of the following properties:
  - a. they are **clear** and **precise**;
  - b. they are **original**; and,
  - c. they facilitate **divergent thinking** (they help us to see events, information, etc., more than one way and/or in a new way).
  
3. Good questions also avoid the following errors:
  - a. the error of **representativeness** in which we call attention to what we already know or believe;
  - b. the error of **underlying odds** in which we call attention to an event, information, etc. simply because it is an exception to a rule; and/or
  - c. the error of **framing** in which we look at information, events, etc. only from one perspective.
  
4. As for all problem-solving, good questions reflect an appreciation for the **general properties** of information, events, etc., and for **functional** or **workable** approaches to information, events, etc.

## **SOCIAL SKILLS QUIZ**

FOR STUDENTS OF  
Clara B. Jones, Ph.D.

**Do I exhibit the following skills?**

<b>SOCIAL SKILL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Taking turns		
Praising (no put-downs)		
Sharing materials		
Asking for help		
Using quiet voices		
Participating equally		
Staying on task		
Saying kind things		
Using names		
Encouraging others		
Patient waiting		
Communicating clearly		
Accepting differences		
Active listening		
Resolving conflicts		
Following directions		
Paraphrasing		
Managing materials		
Staying with the team (e.g., the class)		
Sharing ideas (e.g., contributing in class)		
Recording ideas		
Sharing tasks		
Celebrating success		
Helping others		