

## Critical Thinking Questions: Forensic Mental Health Evaluation

### **Questions of Clarification:**

1. Are there concrete behavioral anchors for abstract concepts I am using?
2. For collaterals: Could you give me an example of \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. Verbs versus adverbs and adjectives
  - b. Concrete details versus opinions and judgments

### **Questions that Probe Assumptions:**

1. What am I assuming? Is that always the case?
2. Why do I think the assumption holds here?
3. What could we assume instead?
4. Who would assume that?
5. Why would someone make that assumption?

### **Questions that Probe Reasons and Evidence:**

1. How do I know \_\_\_\_\_?
2. What is my evidence for that?
3. Are these reasons adequate?
4. Is my evidence relevant?
5. How does that apply to this case?
6. What evidence do I not have?
7. Is there countervailing evidence for my conclusion, and if so, how do I account for it?
8. If the opposite of my conclusion were true, what evidence would I expect to find?
9. What would change my mind?
10. Is my chain of inference free of logical fallacies?

### **Questions about Viewpoints or Perspectives:**

1. Have I looked at it from \_\_\_\_\_ point of view?
2. If \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the case, then what might also be true?

### **Questions that Probe Implications and Consequences:**

1. Does this question ask me to evaluate something? What?
2. To answer this question, what other questions must I answer first?
3. Is there evidence that would support delimiting and contextualizing my conclusions?
4. Are my opinions and conclusions always true, sometimes true, or more likely to be true in some circumstances than others?
5. Are there conditions under which my conclusions would be less likely to be true?

### **Questions about the Question:**

1. Can I break this question down at all?
2. To answer the question under consideration, what questions would I have to answer first?
3. Would \_\_\_\_\_ put the question differently?

Paul, R. (1993). *Critical thinking: How to prepare students for a rapidly changing world*. Anthology On Critical Thinking and Educational Reform, Revised Third Edition. California: Foundation for Critical Thinking

Karson, M. & Nadkarni, L. (2013). *Principles of forensic report writing*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.