**Stasis Questions**

**Stasis Questions** are designed to help groups find common ground and come to an agreement on complex matters involving conflicting opinions, especially on legal cases or public policy.

**Fact**

* Did something happen? What are the facts about it?
* Is there a problem/issue?
* How did it begin and what are its causes?
* What changed to create the problem/issue?
* Can it be changed?

You should also ask “Where did I obtain my data and are these sources reliable? How do I know that?”

**Definition**

* What is the nature of the problem/issue?
* What exactly is the problem/issue?
* What kind of a problem/issue is it?
* To what larger class of things or events does it belong?
* What are its parts, and how are they related?

You should also ask “Who/what is influencing my definition of this problem/issue, and why?”

**Quality**

* Is it a good thing or a bad thing?
* How serious is the problem/issue?
* Who might be affected by this problem/issue (stakeholders)?
* What happens if we don’t do anything?
* What are the costs of solving the problem/issue?

You should also ask “Who/what is influencing my determination of the seriousness of this problem/issue, and why?

**Policy**

* Should action be taken? If so, what?
* Who should be involved in helping to solve the problem/address the issue?
* What needs to happen to solve this problem/address this issue?

You should also ask “Who/what is influencing my determination of what to do about this problem/issue, and why?”

Note: This primer is extracted from your rhetoric text, *Praxis* pp. 118-119, (with slight adjustments), but you still need to read that chapter.