**DEFINITIONS**

* **Fact:** a statement that is unquestionable true and probable
* **Assumption**: an unquestioned belief that we accept as true without proof; a hidden claim/belief that an argument rests on.

**Questions you can ask to identify and test assumptions:**

* What is being taking for granted?
* What facts led to this conclusion?
* What beliefs led to this conclusion? Am I sure that the beliefs are true and correct?

**EXAMPLES:**

**The Argument:** Joseph loves pop music so he must love Lady Gaga.

* **The Assumption:** Because Lady Gaga is a pop singer and Joseph loves pop music, he will definitely love the music of Lady Gaga.
* **The Problem:** Every singer has a unique style, even within a genre of music; no one person will like every single artist.
* **The Solution:** It would be best to ask Joseph directly if he likes Lady Gaga to verify the assumption is true.

**The Argument:** Bring your umbrella with you because it is a yucky day out there.

* **The Assumption:** Everyone thinks that rainy days are yucky.
* **The Problem:** Some people enjoy rainy weather and would never call rain “yucky” and others, like farmers, rely on rain to water their crops, so they think rain is a great thing.
* **The Solution:** Rephrase the claim to say “Bring your umbrella with you because it is raining out there.”