

Depth and Complexity Question/Statement Stems
Compiled by Marcy Voss

Language of the Discipline

- What terms or words are specific to the work of _____?
- What words would a _____ use to describe _____?
- What tools would a _____ use to _____?
- What tools does _____ use?
- What specialized language is needed to define and/or describe _____ (event/situation)?
- How would _____ be best described by people working in this area/field/discipline?
- In what way is _____ best communicated?
- Describe the causes and effects of _____ (event) using the language of _____ (a disciplinarian in that area).
- Compare two graphs defining _____ using the language of a statistician.
- Role play a docent giving a lecture on _____ using the language of a _____.

Details

- What are _____'s attributes?
- What features characterize _____?
- What specific elements define _____?
- What are the interrelated parts of the _____?
- What are the parts/attributes of _____?
- Describe how _____ (one part or factor) affect _____ (another part or factor)?
- What distinguishes _____ from _____?
- What are the parts-to-whole relationships in _____?
- What information can be added to what we already know about _____?
- What factors contributed to _____?
- What variables would change _____?
- Provide evidence to substantiate _____.
- Elaborate on _____.
- Make a chart to show _____ in detail.
- Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast _____.
- Use the Internet to discover new facts about _____.

Patterns

- What are the reoccurring events in _____?
- What elements, events, or ideas are repeated in _____ over time?
- What is the order of events in _____?
- What will come next in _____?
- In what ways is the past repeated in the present and may possibly be repeated in the future in relation to _____?
- What pattern of behavior did _____ have?

What information does _____ (pattern) provide?
How does the pattern of _____ relate to _____?
How does the pattern of _____ help predict _____?
Identify the political, social, and economic patterns associated with _____.
Describe the patterns used in _____ (process).
Describe the cycle of _____ found in _____ (this situation).
Compare and contrast the patterns of _____ found in _____.

Trends

What ongoing factors have influenced _____?
What factors contributed to _____?
What causes of action affected the development of ideas about _____?
What are the external factors/outside influences affecting information about _____?
What causes of action affected the development of ideas about _____?
What social, political, technological, and popular ideas affected the knowledge about _____?
What influences caused/affected _____?
What courses of action affected _____?
Summarize trends affecting _____.
Relate contemporary trends to the events of _____.
Define and support with evidence the effects of scientific and social trends on _____.
Describe the courses of action that other characters in _____ (book/story) took which influenced the main character to behave as he/she did.
The ideas about _____ resulted from many things. Identify some of the events which affected _____.

Unanswered Questions

What is still not understood about _____?
What is yet unknown about _____?
In what way is information about _____ still incomplete or lacking?
What ideas are still unresolved about _____?
What ideas remain unclear or incomplete about _____?
What information is still ambiguous about _____?
What ideas are still unresolved/not settled about _____?
What information is relevant/applies to _____, but is unavailable?
What discrepancies in information did you note about _____?
What additional information is necessary for us to be able to make a conclusion regarding _____?
What discrepancies in information did you find in your research about _____?
Define the unanswered questions about _____.
Describe the effects the author has achieved by not developing fully or omitting some information about _____'s (character) personality.
Identify the relationship of unanswered to answered questions in applying _____ (theory).
Describe the additional information that would be necessary for us to solve _____ (problem).

Rules

- How is _____ structured?
- What are stated or unstated causes of _____?
- What guidelines are used to create _____?
- What are the reasons, motivations, or events that underlie _____?
- What are the reasons, motivations, or events that underlie the actions of _____?
- What are the guidelines or regulations affecting _____?
- What hidden rules of order are found in _____?
- What are the properties related to _____ (math problem)?
- How can you explain what happened in _____ (science experiment)?
- How is _____ (story) structured?
- What is the basic structure of _____?
- What rules do we use in solving equations involving _____?
- Explain the overt and covert rules affecting _____.
- Describe the implicit and explicit rules of _____.
- Describe the rules governing _____.
- Discuss the hierarchy of _____.
- Define the consequences of intended and unintended rules governing _____.
- Describe the order of operations in solving _____.
- Explain the structure of _____.

Ethics

- What dilemmas or controversies are involved in _____?
- What elements can be identified in _____ that reflect bias, prejudice, and/or discrimination?
- What controversies exist regarding _____?
- What debate can be identified or developed about _____?
- What arguments could emerge from a study of _____?
- What different/conflicting opinions have been expressed about _____?
- What are the various points of view regarding _____?
- Prove with evidence the ethical considerations surrounding _____.
- Identify the ethical considerations affecting the protagonist and antagonist in _____.
- Judge with criteria the ethical issues affecting _____.
- Discuss the merits of using _____ vs. _____.
- Prove with evidence that there were and still are ethical considerations involved in the treatment of _____.
- Judge different opinions regarding use of _____.

Big Ideas

- What overarching statement/generalization best describes _____?
- What general statement summarizes _____?
- What proposition or statement could best describe all of _____?
- Which ideas are best included in a general statement about _____?
- What statement could best describe _____?
- What generalization can we make regarding the facts about _____?

What are some of the theories that have been proposed to explain _____?
What general statement sums up all that we have discussed regarding _____?
Define the meaning of _____ (generalization/principle/theory/law) in relation to _____.

Compare the positive and negative effects of changes from the time of _____ to present day.

Defend the statement _____ by using examples from science, math, social studies, and language arts.

Discuss the theories explaining _____.

Describe the theorem used in solving _____.

Describe the principles at work in _____ (science experiment).

Describe all of these ideas regarding _____ in one brief statement.

Over Time

How is _____ related to the past, present, and future?

How is _____ related to _____ within/during _____ (a particular time period)?

How has time affected _____?

What perspectives does time provide in understanding _____?

How does the passage of time affect our study of _____?

What is revealed when _____ is examined over a specific time period?

What perspectives does time provide in understanding _____?

What aspects of the past affect _____ in the present and possible will affect it in the future?

How have developments in technology over the past 50 years affected _____?

How has our understanding of _____ changed over time?

Judge with criteria the effectiveness of democracy in _____ (country) from _____ to _____ (years).

Define how _____ (author/poet) has retained and/or changed elements of literary style over time.

Trace the relationship between _____ and _____ from the 1800's to present day.

Trace the changes in technology regarding _____ from the early 1900's to present day. Predict how future changes in technology will affect _____.

Different Perspectives

What are the opposing viewpoints in _____ (issue)?

How do different people and characters see _____?

Why does the consideration of opposing viewpoints lead to a better understanding of _____?

How does viewing _____ from different perspectives help you understand this event/body of knowledge/set of ideas better?

Why does the consideration of opposing viewpoints lead to a better understanding about _____?

How would others view _____?

What opposing opinions have been voiced about _____?
What do others think about _____?
How might a professional in the field view _____ differently from a layman?
How would _____ (one character from a story) view this situation differently from _____ (another character in the story)?
Distinguish facts from opinions in the responses of people who express different points of view about _____.
Prove with evidence _____ from different points of view.
Compare _____ to _____ (events in history) from the perspective of a historian, anthropologist, sociologist, and psychologist.
Research _____. Be prepared to debate both sides of the issue.
Determine a need in _____ (situation) and something that could be done to improve this situation. Make a list of possible objections from the various people involved.
Write a letter to the editor defending your idea.
Defend the future of _____. Include arguments from various points of view.

Interdisciplinary Relations

What are the common elements among _____?
How does _____ (idea/topic/concept) relate to/be applied to other disciplines?
How do topics/ideas from across the disciplines contribute to the meaning of _____?
What are the common elements among the topics from _____ (various disciplines) that we have studied?
How does _____ relate to other ideas across the disciplines?
How do _____ (various topics across the disciplines) contribute meaning to _____ (one particular topic)?
How is _____ related to similar ideas in science, social studies, math, and language arts?
What patterns do we see related to _____ in math, science, social studies, and language arts?
How is _____ important in school, industry, scientific research, and medicine?
Compare the effects of _____ on industry, the environment, and laws governing our society.
Compare _____ from the perspectives of an historian, anthropologist, sociologist, and psychologist.
Compare _____ (a system) to systems in science, social studies, and language arts.
Find examples of _____ in science, social studies, math, and language arts.
Find the relationship between _____ and ideas in science, social studies, math, and language arts.
Explain the relationship of _____ with other ideas within this field of study and with different fields of study.