Facilitating the Understanding of DEPTH and COMPLEXITY

Note to the teacher: This chart identifies key questions, thinking skills, and dimensions of DEPTH and COMPLEXITY.

- **Key questions** can be used in the context of lesson plans to probe understanding and to prompt students during discussions.
- The thinking skills can be used to initiate the type of cognitive operation or thinking that could best prompt each of the elements of DEPTH and COMPLEXITY.
- The <u>resources</u> listed are the most logical references in which to locate the type of information required by each of the elements of DEPTH and COMPLEXITY. Teachers may add to any of these lists as appropriate.

ICONS	PROMPT	KEY QUESTIONS	THINKING SKILLS	RESOURCES
Language of the Discipline	 Specialized vocabulary Tools used by the disciplinarians Names of skills or tasks particular to people working within the discipline 	What terms or words are specific to the work of the? (disciplinarian) What tools does the use? (disciplinarian)	Categorize Identify	text biographies
Details	 Parts Attributes Factors Variables Characteristics 	What are its attributes? What features characterize this? What specific elements define this? What distinguishes this from other things?	identify traits describe differentiate compare/ contrast prove with evidence observe	pictures diaries or journals poetry
O—O O—O Patterns	 Repetition Predictability Recurring events Cycle Repeated features 	What are the recurring events? What elements events, ideas are repeated over time? What was the order of events How can we predict what will come next?	determine relevant vs. irrelevant summarize make analogies discriminate between similar and different relate	time lines other chronological lists

ICONS	PROMPT	KEY QUESTIONS	THINKING SKILLS	RESOURCES
Trends	InfluencesForcesDirectionCourse of actionFads	What ongoing factors have influenced this study? What factors have contributed to this study?	prioritize determine cause and effect predict relate formulate questions hypothesize	journals newspapers graphs charts
P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	 Dilemmas, ambiguities Unclear ideas Discrepancies Yet unknown Not understood Lacking in explanation Incomplete ideas 	What is still not understood about this area/ topic/ study/ discipline? What is yet unknown about this area/ topic/ study/ discipline? In what ways is the information incomplete or lacking in explanation?	recognize fallacies note ambiguity distinguish fact from fiction and opinion formulate questions problem solve identify missing information test assumptions	multiple and varied resources comparative analyses of autobiographical and current nonfiction articles, etc.
Rules	 Structure Order Explanation Organization Laws	How is this structured? What are the stated and unstated causes related to the description or explanation of what we are studying?	generalize hypothe4siz judge credibility	editorials essays laws theories
Ethics	 Different opinions Judging, bias Controversial issues Problems Morals Prejudice Discrimination 	What dilemmas or controversies are involved in this area/ topic/ study/ discipline? What elements can be identified that reflect bias, prejudice, discrimination?	judge with criteria determine bias	editorials essays autobiographies journals

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Big Idea	 Overarching ideas Broad idea that can be supported with evidence Generalization Universal concept to connect all learning 	What overarching statement best describes what is being studied? What general statement includes what is being studied?	prove with evidence generalize identify the main idea	quotations discipline-related essays
PAST · AUTUR	 Looking at past, present and future Relationships within a time period 	How are the ideas related between the past, present, future? How are these ideas related within or during a particular time period? How has time affected the	relates sequence	time lines text biographies autobiographies
Relates Over Time	Applying from the past to the present	information? How and why do things change or remain the same?	order	historical documents biographies
Multiple Perspectives	 Different points of view Ways of seeing and reporting things Opposing viewpoints Outlooks Interpretation 	What are the opposing viewpoints? How do different people and characters see this event or situation?	argue determine bias classify	autobiographies mythologies, legends vs. non fiction accounts debates
Across Disciplines	 Connections among disciplines Touching on many subjects at once Relationships within the disciplines Relationships between the disciplines 	How does this study connect across disciplines? How is the relationship between this study and other disciplines evident?	judge draw conclusions interpret	discipline-related essays multiple and varied resources pictures