

Understanding Depth

Element	Key Questions	Thinking Skills	Resources
Language of the Discipline	What terms or words are specific to the work of? What tools does the _____ use?	Categorize Identify	Texts Biographies
Details	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
Patterns	What are the reoccurring 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 versus irrelevant Summarize Make analogies Discriminate between same & different Relate	Time lines Other chronological lists
Trends	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
Rules	How is this structured? What are the stated and unstated causes related to the description or explanation of what we are studying?	Generalize Hypothesize Judge credibility	Editorials Essays Laws Theories
Ethics	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
Unanswered Questions	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 & opinion Formulate questions Problem solve Identify missing information Test assumptions	Multiple and varied resources Comparative analyses of autobiographical and current nonfiction articles, etc.
Big Ideas	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

Understanding Complexity

Element	Key Questions	Thinking Skills	Resources
Relationships Across time, Across & within disciplines	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 information? How and why do things change or remain the same?	Relate Sequence Order	Time lines Text Biographies & Autobiographies Historical documents
Point of View	What are the opposing viewpoints? How do different people and characters see this event or situation?	Argue Determine bias Classify	Biographies & Autobiographies Mythologies, legends vs. nonfiction accounts Debates