

QUESTIONS



An analytical approach for reading.

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“The unexamined life is not worth living”



An analytical approach for reading.

The Critical Mind is a Questioning Mind



The key to powerful thinking is powerful questioning.

The key to purposeful reading is purposeful questioning.

THREE TYPES OF QUESTIONS:

1. Factual
2. Interpretive
3. Evaluative

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Clarify factual elements of the plot.

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After discussion, some questions might remain unresolved.

Evaluative Questions

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In short, what do you think about some idea or theme that is presented in the work?

The Art of Questioning

What is the purpose? What is the goal? What is the agenda?
What is the main problem? What is the crucial issue? What is the
key information? What conclusions can I reach? How can I
interpret the information? What is really going on? Why should I
care? What assumptions am I making? What assumptions is the
author or speaker making? What are the implications? What is
the author's point of view? What is my point of view? What
information is missing? What additional questions could I ask?

Purposeful Reading

- Understand your purpose in reading
- Understand the author's purpose in writing
- Determine how ideas in a text are interconnected
- Look for and understand systems of meaning
- Engage in the text while reading - reading is an active process!
- Move past impressionistic reading
- Formulate questions and seek answers to those questions while reading.

Effective Discussion

- Attentive listening.
- Incorporation of factual, interpretive, and evaluative questions.
- Equal, balanced participation.
- Questioning which extends thinking (Socratic).
- Comments to share ideas, to clarify the ideas of others, to extend thinking, to show support, and to present multiple (different) perspectives.
- Comments that redirect discussion back to important or relevant topics.
- Comments and questions that address ideas, not people.

Fundamental Questions

Questions define tasks, express problems and delineate issues.

Answers often signal a full stop in thinking.

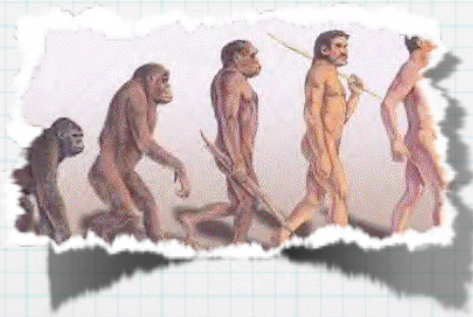
No questions equals no understanding. Most students typically have no intellectual questions. They not only sit in silence, their minds are silent as well.

Intellectual fields of study are born of questions to which answers are needed. Every field stays alive only to the extent that fresh questions are generated and explored.

Great advances in thought, in technology, in the arts, often arise from efforts to find answers to fundamental questions.

Great Thinkers

When we consider the work of Einstein, Darwin, and Newton, we find, not the unfathomable, genius mind. Rather we find thinkers who placed deep and fundamental questions at the heart of their work and pursued them passionately.



The search for answers to fundamental questions can lead to new paradigms.

References:

- * The Critical Mind is a Questioning Mind <http://www.criticalthinking.org>
- * The Role of Socratic Questioning in Thinking, teaching, and Learning <http://www.criticalthinking.org>.