

Questions by Cognitive Level

In order to ensure your questions are scaffolded from lower to higher cognitive levels, it is useful to plan your questions before class. Use this table, from Linda Nilson, to identify appropriate question types for each cognitive level.

Cognitive Level	Questions
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who did _____ to _____? • What did you notice about _____? • What do you recall about _____? • What does the term _____ mean? • When did _____ take place? Where did it take place? • How does the process work? (Describe it.)
Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your own words, what does the term _____ mean? • How would you explain _____ in nontechnical terms? • Can you show us what you mean? • What do you think the author/researcher is saying?
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would be an example of _____? • How would you solve this problem? • What approach would you use? • How would you apply _____ in this situation?
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are _____ and _____ alike? How are they different? • How is _____ related to _____? • What are the different parts of _____? • What type of _____ is this? How would you classify it? • What evidence does the author/researcher offer? • How does the author/researcher structure the argument? • What assumptions are behind the argument? • What inferences can you draw about _____?
Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What conclusions can you come to about _____? • What generalizations can you make about _____? • How would you design (structure, organize) a _____? • How would you adapt (change) the design (plan) for _____? • How can you resolve the differences (paradox, apparent conflict)? • What new model could accommodate these disparate findings?
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would you choose, and why? • What are the relevant data, and why? • Why do you approve or disapprove? • Why do you think the conclusions are valid or invalid? • What is your position (opinion), and how can you justify it? • How would you rank (rate, prioritize) the _____? • How would you judge (evaluate) _____?