

The Six Levels of Questioning

Level 1 – Knowledge

Exhibit memory of previously-learned materials by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts, and answers.

Key Words

who	what	why	when	where	which	omit
choose	find	how	define	label	show	spell
list	match	name	relatetell	recall	select	

Sample Questions

What is...?
Who was...?
How is...?
Where is...?
How did _____ happen?
When did _____ happen?
Why did...?
When did...?
How would you show...?
Who were the main...?
Which one...?
How would you describe...?
Can you recall...?
Can you select...?
Can you list the three...?

NOTE: Discussion Directors should not use questions from this level of questioning. These kinds of questions don't make for good discussion because they typically have only one or two "correct" answers.

Level 2 – Comprehension

Demonstrate understand of facts and ideas by organizing, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions, and stating main ideas.

Key Words

compare
extend
rephrase

contrast
illustrate
translate

demonstrate
infer
summarize

interpret
outline
show

explain
relate
classify

Sample Questions

What is the main idea of...?
What facts or ideas show...?
Can you explain what is happening...?
What does _____ mean?
How would you classify the type of...?
How would you compare...?
How would you contrast...?
Put in your own words...
How would you rephrase the meaning of...?
What statements support...?
What can you say about...?
Which is the best answer?
How would you summarize...?

NOTE: Discussion Directors should not use questions from this level of questioning. These kinds of questions don't make for good discussion because they typically have only one or two "correct" answers.

Level 3 – Application

Solve problems to new situations by applying acquired knowledge, facts, techniques, and rules in a different way.

Key Words

apply
interview
solve

build
make use of
utilize

choose
organize
model

construct
plan
identify

develop
select
experiment

Sample Questions

How would you use...?

What examples can you find to...?

What would happen if...?

What parts would you choose to change...?

How would you solve _____ using what you've learned?

How would you organize _____ to show...?

How would you show your understanding of...?

What approach would you use to...?

How would you apply what you learned to...?

What other way would you plan to...?

What facts would you select to show...?

What questions would you ask in an interview with...?

Level 4 – Analysis

Examine and break information into parts by identifying motives or causes. Make inferences and find evidence to support generalizations.

Key Words

analyze	categorize	classify	compare	contrast
discover	dissect	divide	examine	inspect
simplify	survey	take part in	test for	distinguish
list	distinction	theme	relationships	function
motive	inference	assumption	conclusion	

Sample Questions

- Why do you think...?
- What are the parts or features of...?
- How is _____ related to...?
- What motive is there...?
- Can you list the parts...?
- What inference can you make...?
- What conclusions can you draw...?
- How would you classify...?
- How would you categorize...?
- What evidence can you find...?
- What is the relationship between...?
- Can you make a distinction between...?
- What is the function of...?
- What ideas justify...?

Level 5 – Synthesis

Compile information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions.

Key Words

build	choose	combine	compile	compose
construct	create	design	develop	estimate
formulate	imagine	invent	make up	originate
plan	predict	propose	solve	solution
suppose	discuss	modify	change	original
improve	adapt	minimize	maximize	delete
theorize	elaborate	test	happen	change

Sample Questions

- What change would you make to solve...?
- How would you improve...?
- What would happen if...?
- Can you elaborate on the reason...?
- Can you propose an alternative...?
- Can you invent...?
- How would you adapt _____ to create a different...?
- How would you change or modify the plot...?
- What could be done to minimize or maximize...?
- What way would you design...?
- What could be combined to improve...?
- Suppose you could _____. What would you do...?
- How would you test...?
- Can you formulate a theory for...?
- Can you think of an original way for the...?
- Can you predict the outcome if...?

Level 6 – Evaluation

Present and defend opinions by making judgments about information, validity of ideas, or quality of work based on a set of criteria.

Key Words

award	choose	conclude	criticize	decide
defend	determine	dispute	evaluate	judge
justify	measure	compare	mark	rate
recommend	rule on	select	agree	appraise
prioritize	opinion	interpret	explain	support
importance	criteria	prove	disprove	assess
influence	perceive	value	deduct	

Sample Questions

Do you agree with the actions...? Why or why not?
What is your opinion of...?
Who would you prove or disprove...?
What is the value of...?
Would it be better if...?
Why did the character choose...?
What would you recommend...?
How would you rate...?
What would you cite to defend the actions...?
How would you evaluate...?
What choice would you have made...?
What would you select...?
How would you prioritize...?
What judgment would you make about...?
How would you justify...?
Why is it better...?