

The following questions could be used to hold students accountable for their reading or to challenge them to critically think about the ideas in a text. Students could answer the questions in short answer format, you could provide multiple-choice answers for each question you ask, or you could use the questions to engage students in meaningful discussions about a text.

You will notice that the questions below have been organized under Costa's Levels of Thinking. When assessing students' comprehension, use level one questions. Level two and three questions should be used to develop and assess students' critical thinking skills.

**Costa's
Levels of
Thinking**

Questions for Discussion or Assessment

Level
1

1. What is the stated main idea? What is the topic of the article?
2. What is the author's central claim?
3. What type of evidence does the author use? (Anecdotal, statistics, experts, etc.)
4. Who is the author? What are his or her experiences?
5. What problem does the author present? What is his or her solution?

Level
2

1. How does the title relate to the information in the text?
2. How has the author's experiences (both professional and academic) influenced what he or she has written?
3. How does the author structure the text?
4. How does the text relate to the concepts in the class?
5. How do the ideas in _____ (text A) compare to those in _____ (text B)?
6. In what ways does this article challenge (or extend) the ideas in the class?
7. What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
8. How might we describe the author's tone in the text?
9. What does the author argue first, second, and third?
10. Who is the author's intended audience? How do we know?

Level
3

1. Is the evidence in the text credible or reliable?
2. Is the author credible?
3. How might _____ (provide an audience) respond to this text?
4. Does the author successfully support his or her claims?
5. What could the author do to make the text more effective?
6. Who would care about the ideas in the text?
7. What does the author hope his or her audience will do as a result of reading the text?
8. How might we extend the ideas in the text to other classes, contexts, or discussions?
9. What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
10. How might we describe the author's tone in the text?
11. How is the author's claim or main idea significant to your life?
12. Why is the author's claim important for us to consider?