

Academic Thinking Skills: Question and Answer Stems

Apply (utilize)

- Contextualize the ideas, themes, and concepts in the text to broader areas of study.
- Use concepts from a text to implement an action.

	Question Stems	Answer Stems	Word Bank
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the themes in the story...? • How do the events in the story contribute to...? • How does the author use description to...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...is used to illustrate... • ...in the story can be traced back to... • ...is connected to... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relate • relevant • pertinent • integral • connect • branch • link
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the event fit into the...? • How is this individual a product of their...? • Why can we understand this idea as a part of...? • Where does this argument fit into...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...is integral to understanding... because... • This idea connects/branches/links to... 	
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the ways that I can represent...? • How does this relate to...? • What is an example of...? • Does it make sense to...? • What is...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The method I used to solve this problem is... • My solution is reasonable because... 	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you recall...? • When did ... happen? • What is...? • Can you select...? • How would you describe...? • Who discovered...? • How does the development of ... affect...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...is important because... • One idea I notice is... because... 	

Analyze (examine)

- Analyze the use of evidence in texts or critique reasoning.
- Analyze the structure of texts and/or how an author's choices create a central theme, idea, or other meaning in texts.
- Identify patterns of continuity or changes in texts.
- Analyze errors in texts or processes.

	Question Stems	Answer Stems	Word Bank
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the author support...? • What reasons are given for...? • Why does the author...? • How does the author create a case for...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author uses ... to create... • ...are examples of... • Through description of..., the author... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build • connect • develop • associate • change • alter • adapt • modify • refine • transform
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this idea build upon...? • Why has ... changed over time? • How does ... affect the historical development of...? • How does the ... of the author affect...? • Why does the author choose...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This ... builds/connects/ rejects ... because... • ...has changed/evolved/ adapted by... • The author's bias/ background/philosophy is evident because... 	
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if I had started with... instead of...? • What if I could only use...? • What does ... mean? • Is it right that...? • Why is...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patterns of mistakes that I see are... • The mistakes are being made by... • A common way to avoid this error is... • The reason I used this method is because... 	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you explain how ... affected...? • How would you compare/ contrast...? • How would you classify...? • What steps are needed to edit or refine...? • How would you estimate...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This suggests... • This describes how... affects... 	

Evaluate (assess)

- Assess cause and effect relationships within texts.
- Compare ideas or perspectives found in texts.
- Assess the validity of arguments in texts.
- Justify reasoning found in texts.
- Make a judgment based on information.
- Categorize ideas, events, themes, and data by relevant characteristics.

	Question Stems	Answer Stems	Word Bank
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the author support...? • Do I have enough ... to form a conclusion? • Does this fit with other ...? • Did the author justify...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...can be compared to... • The is a ... correlation/relationship between ... and... • ...strengthens the argument. • ...makes me question the author's credibility. • ...is similar to... • ...supports the previous work by... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consequence • outcome • repercussion • aftermath • ramification • justify • explain • describe • predict • evaluate • gauge • appraise • estimate
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the relationship between ... and...? • How did ... lead to...? • How can ... define the time period? • Why did ... cause...? • What can be concluded from...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effect/consequence/outcome of ... was... • A result/impact/consequence of ... was... • The text implies/suggests/insinuates... 	
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would happen to ... if ... was increased or decreased? • How would you describe the sequence of...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My solution is reasonable because... • The formula/data I chose to use was significant because... • My results are/are not reliable because... 	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is ... related to...? • What conclusions can you draw from...? • How would you test...? • Can you elaborate on the reason for...? • What would happen if...? • How would you test...? • Do you feel the ... experiment is ethical? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree/disagree with the results because... • My data was affected by... 	



Synthesize (combine/condense)

- Synthesize ideas across multiple texts to create new insights, predict future outcomes, draw informed conclusions, generalize from facts, or argue new ideas.

	Question Stems	Answer Stems	Word Bank
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the commonalities between ... and...? • What can be taken from ... and combined with ... to form a stronger argument? • How can ... and ... be combined to...? • How could ... and ... inform future research/policy/actions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on ... from ... and ... from ..., I conclude... • After reading ... and ..., it can be determined that... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare • contrast • interpret • conclude • combine • compound • create
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this argument compare to...? • What connections can be made between ... and...? • What conclusions can be drawn from...? • How would ... react to...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The similarities between ... and ... suggest/indicate/reveal... • The differences between ... and ... suggest/indicate/reveal... • Comparing ... and ..., we can conclude/predict/interpret... • Between ... and ..., it is evident/clear/indicative... 	
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict what will happen to ... as ... is changed. • Using a principle of math, how can we find...? • What would the world be like if...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The events that may occur are... • I created ... based on my results. 	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information can you gather to support your idea about...? • What conclusions can be drawn from...? • How can I design an experiment to show...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My conclusions lead me to believe... • I prioritize my findings by... 	