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    relate    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  contrast  demonstrate  interpret  explain
extend  illustrate  infer  outline  relate
rephrase  translate  summarize  show  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  build  choose  construct  develop
interview  make use of  organize  plan  select
solve  utilize  model  identify  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
- discover
- simplify
- list
- motive
- categorize
- dissect
- survey
- distinction
- inference
- classify
- divide
- take part in
- theme
- assumption
- compare
- examine
- test for
- relationships
- conclusion
- contrast
- inspect
- distinguish
- function

**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 or 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>award</th>
<th>choose</th>
<th>conclude</th>
<th>criticize</th>
<th>decide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>defend</td>
<td>determine</td>
<td>dispute</td>
<td>evaluate</td>
<td>judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>justify</td>
<td>measure</td>
<td>compare</td>
<td>mark</td>
<td>rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recommend</td>
<td>rule on</td>
<td>select</td>
<td>agree</td>
<td>appraise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prioritize</td>
<td>opinion</td>
<td>interpret</td>
<td>explain</td>
<td>support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>importance</td>
<td>criteria</td>
<td>prove</td>
<td>disprove</td>
<td>assess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>influence</td>
<td>perceive</td>
<td>value</td>
<td>deduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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…?