







Depth & Complexity Icon Chart

| <i>Depth</i> | <i>Icon</i> | <i>Definition</i> | <i>Example</i> | <i>Writing</i> | <i>Key Questions</i> | <i>Thinking Skills</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Language of the Discipline |  | What vocabulary terms are specific to the content or discipline? | Tools Jargon Icons Acronyms Special phrases Terms Slang Abbreviations | What are its attributes? What features characterize this? What specific elements define this? What distinguishes this from other things? | What terms or words are specific to the work of ...? What tools does the _____ use? | Categorize Identify |
| Details |  | What are the defining features or characteristics? Find examples and evidence to support opinions and ideas. | Parts Factors Attributes Variables Distinguishing Traits | Describe it: (physically, using the 5 senses, if applicable) How would you describe this issue/topic? If it's a concept, think "out of the box" and gives it a color, taste, smell, etc. | What are its attributes? What features characterize this? What specific elements define this? What distinguishes this from other things? | Identify traits Describe Differentiate Compare/contrast Prove with evidence Observe |
| Patterns |  | What elements reoccur? What is the sequence or order of events? Make predictions based on past events. | Predictability Repetition | Expository writing: Create (planning), Remembering (listing, describing, naming) Understanding (categorizing, explaining) Analyzing (how are the components organized?) | What are the reoccurring events? What elements, events, ideas, are repeated over time? What was the order of events? How can we predict what will come next? | Determine relevant Versus irrelevant Summarize Make analogies Discriminate between same & different Relate |
| Unanswered Questions |  | What information is unclear, missing, or unavailable? What evidence do you need? What has not yet been proven? | Missing Parts Incomplete Ideas Discrepancies Unresolved issues Ambiguity | What do people who work in this discipline still need to find out? What don't they know? | What do experts in the field still not understand about this area/topic/ study/discipline? What is yet unknown about this area/topic/study/discipline? In what ways is the information incomplete or lacking in explanation? | Prioritize Determine cause and effect Predict Relate Formulate questions Hypothesize |
| Rules |  | What structure underlies this subject? What guidelines or regulations affect it? What hierarchy or ordering principle is at work? | Structure Order Reasons- "Because..." Organization Explanation Classification | Analyze it-How is this used, in real life or metaphorical? How does it help you understand other topics/issues? Who uses it? Who doesn't use it but should? Who needs it understand it well? | How is this structured? What are the stated and unstated causes related to the description or explanation of what we are studying? | Generalize Predict Judge credibility |
| Trends |  | Note factors (Social, Economic, Political, Scientific, Artistic, Geographic) that cause events to occur. Identify patterns of change over time. | Influence Forces Direction Course of Action Compare, Contrast and Forecast | Compare-What is this similar to? Different from? What does it remind you of? | What ongoing factors have influenced this study? What factors have contributed to this study? | Judge with criteria Determine bias |