



Checking for Understanding

Explanation

Students can *explain* events, actions, and ideas by providing knowledgeable and justified accounts verbally or visually. Questions used to prompt explanation include:

- Why is that so?
- How does this work?
- How can we prove it?
- What explains such events?
- To what is this connected?

Interpretation

Students can *interpret* events, actions, and ideas to provide meaning through narratives, translations, metaphors, images, graphics, drawings, or demonstrations. Questions used to prompt interpretation include:

- What does it mean?
- What makes sense?
- What does it tell of human experience?
- Why does it matter?
- How does it relate to me?

Application

Students can *apply* concepts and skills to new situations and diverse contexts. Questions used to prompt application include:

- How and where can we use these concepts, skills, or processes?
- How should my thinking and action be modified for this particular situation?

Perspective

Students can demonstrate the ability to perceive events, actions, and ideas from various *perspectives* by providing critical and insightful comments and questions from different points of view. Questions used to prompt demonstration of various perspectives include:

- What needs to be made explicit?
- Is the idea plausible?
- What are limitations of the idea?
So what?
- What is an innovative way to look at this?
- What is justified or warranted?
- Is the evidence adequate and reasonable?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the idea?

Empathy

Students can demonstrate empathy when considering events, actions, and ideas by taking the position of another's feelings and worldview. Questions used to prompt demonstration of empathy include:

- How does it seem to you?
- What do I need to experience if I am to understand?
- What does he or she see that I don't?
- What was the person or group of people trying to make me feel and see?

Self Knowledge

Students can demonstrate self-knowledge when considering events, actions, and ideas by using language or visuals that indicate awareness of personal ignorance or predetermined judgments. Questions used to prompt demonstration of self-knowledge include:

- How does who I am shape my views?
- What are my blind spots?
- What are the limits of my understanding?
- What am I prone to misunderstand due to prejudice, habit, and style?

Adapted for PBCL experiences from the "Six Facets of Understanding" in *Understanding by Design*, Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, 2005.

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