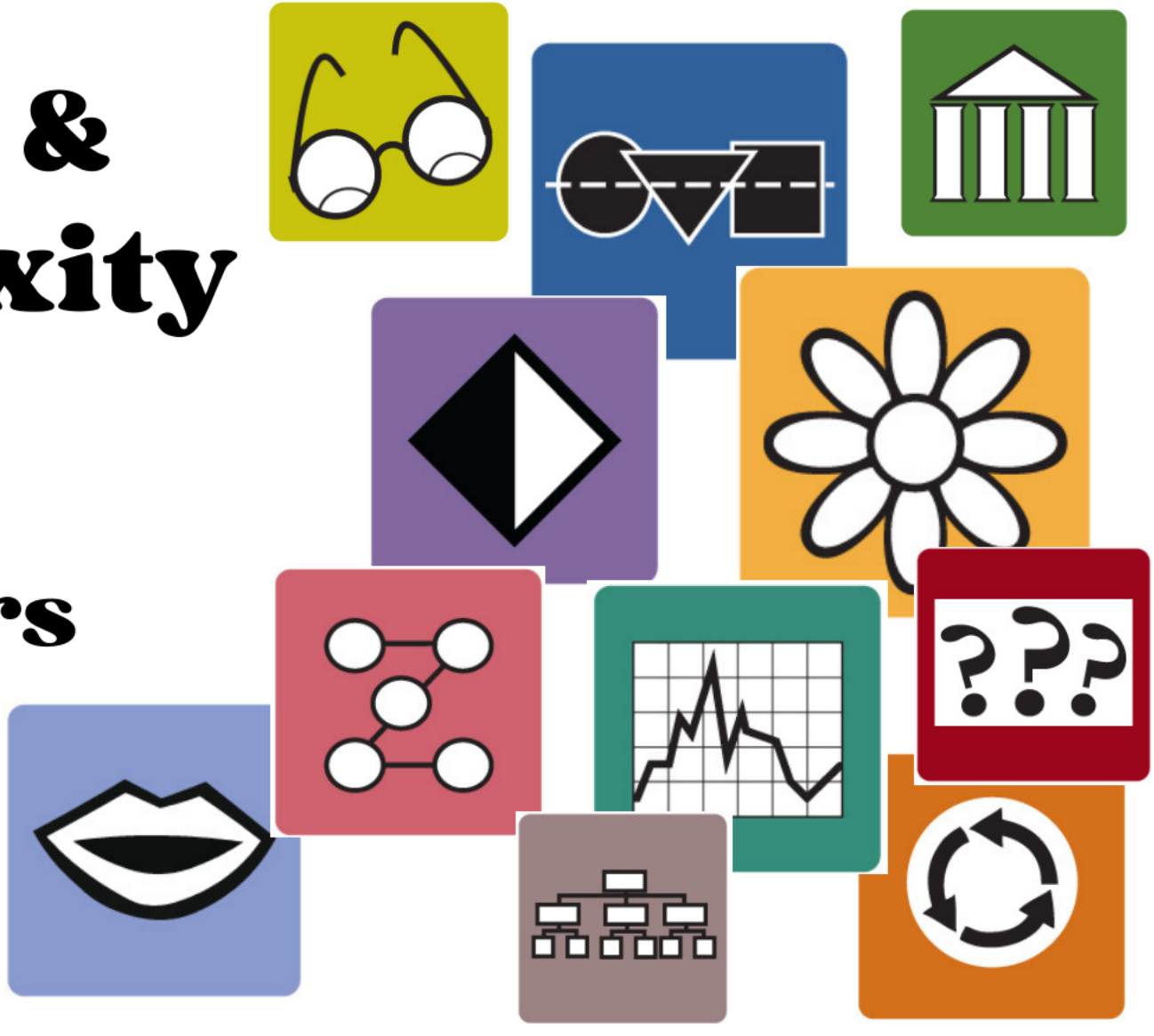
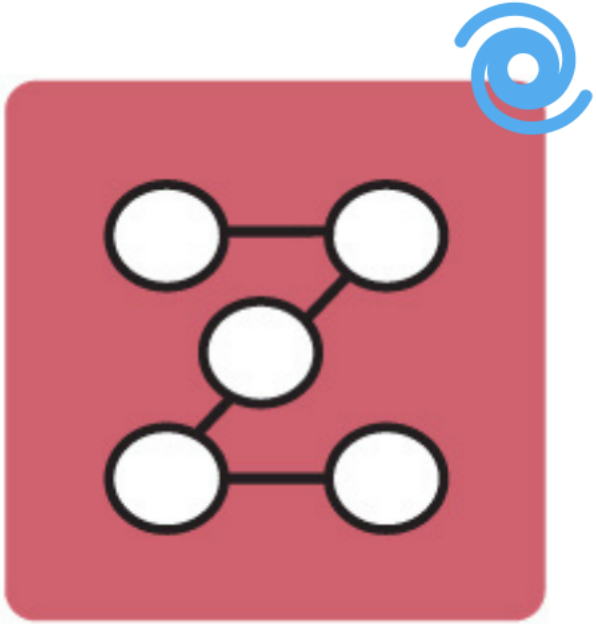
Depth & Complexity

Task Starters



Patterns



- Define cause and effect.
- Sequence the pattern parts.
- Note recurring elements.
- Categorize/Classify patterns.
- Determine man-made patterns or natural patterns.
- Summarize or create analogies.

Task Starters

1. Describe the patterns you find.
2. How do you evaluate a pattern's importance to what you are studying?
3. What elements, events, ideas, are repeated over time?
4. How does one pattern compare to another?
5. What was the order of events?
6. Identify the primary patterns and the secondary patterns.
7. How can we predict what will come next?
8. How are patterns and details related?

Big Idea

- Describe the big idea or generalization.
- Infer a big idea from supporting evidence/information.
- Categorize/classify big ideas.
- Relationships to global or universal themes.
- Determine relevance.
- Judge with criteria the importance of a big idea

Task Starters

1. What overarching statement best describes what is being studied?
2. What general statement includes what is being studied?
3. List the evidence needed to support a big idea of your choice.
4. How do you evaluate a big idea's importance to what you are studying?
5. How does working with big ideas help you learn new knowledge?
6. How are patterns, trends, and rules related to big ideas?

Details

- Describe the details & determine their relevance.
- Prioritize the most important details.
- Note ambiguity among the details.
- Categorize/classify the details.
- Sequence the details.
- Select details to determine bias or lack of bias.

Task Starters

1. What details define the topic?
2. Which details are more important than others and what is your evidence of this?
3. What distinguishes this from other things?
4. What are its attributes?
5. What features characterize this?

Across Disciplines

- Synthesize how the many disciplines connect.
- Multidisciplinary or touching on many subjects at once.
- Prioritize various subject areas' importance to the topic.
- Judge with criteria (the various points of view).
- Compare & contrast info (from various discipines)

TASK STARTERS

1. Describe the topic's place in more than one discipline or subject area
2. Sort the information you are studying into several disciplines.
3. How does this idea/topic/concept relate to other disciplines?
4. How is "across disciplines" related to "multiple perspectives?"
5. How do experts in a discipline learn from experts in other disciplines?

Trends

- Compare and contrast trends.
- Categorize/classify trends.
- Determine the relevance of a trend using evidence.
- Prove the influence of a trend with evidence.
- Determine cause and effect.
- Predict the longevity and influence of trends.

Task Starters

1. Describe the trends.
2. What ongoing factors have influenced this study?
3. What factors have contributed to this study?
4. Identify the causes and results of a trend.
5. How do you evaluate a trend's importance to what you are studying?
6. How are trends related to patterns?
7. How (and when) does a fad become a trend?

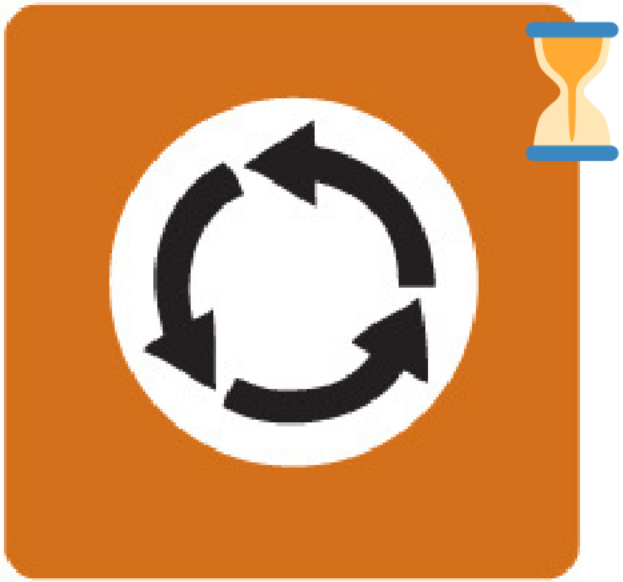
Ethics

- Determine bias.
- Prioritize the most important ethical issues.
- Judge with criteria the ethical issue.
- Distinguish fact from opinion or fantasy.
- Test assumptions.
- Prove with evidence the importance or validity of an ethical position.

Task Starters

1. Describe the ethical issues you find.
2. How did or does an ethical issue affect the information you are studying?
3. Why are there different ethical issues in different times and places?
4. What are some universal ethics or values?
5. How do ethics get developed?
6. How does a culture teach or transmit its ethics?

Over Time



- Sequence or order the topic over time.
- Identify relationships of a topic and different time periods.
- Determine relevance of knowing this topic over time.
- Differentiate fact from opinion (over time).
- Predict something based on present knowledge.

Task Starters

1. Describe the past, present, and possible future related to this issue or topic.
2. Identify a time that this issue or topic was different.
3. How does knowing things over time affect what we learn?
4. How is history being made every day? How does this help us predict the future?
5. How and why do things change or remain the same?

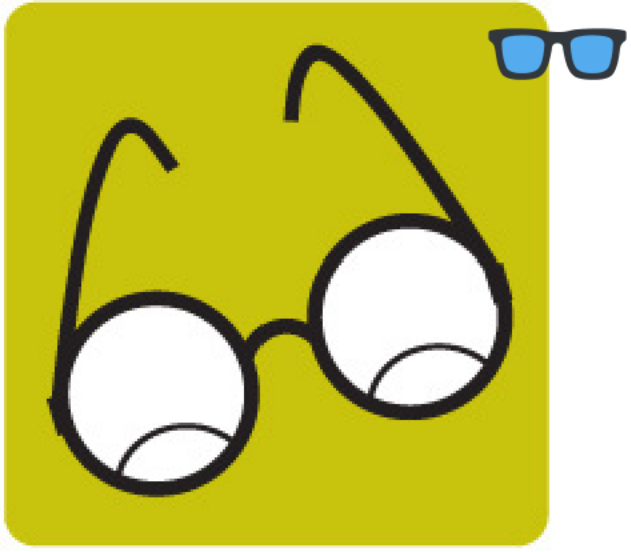
Unanswered Questions

- Note ambiguity.
- Formulate questions.
- Identify missing information.
- Test assumptions.
- Distinguish fact from fiction and opinion.
- Problem-solve.

Task Starters

1. Describe the unknown details or stimuli for the event.
2. Identify the origins of an unanswered question.
3. How do you evaluate an unanswered question's importance?
4. How do you determine if, in fact, a question is unanswered?
5. Which areas of science or human behavior can you connect with unanswered questions?
6. What is still not understood about this area/topic?
7. What is yet unknown about this area/topic?
8. In what ways is the information incomplete or lacking in explanation?

Multiple Perspectives



- Describe the perspectives.
- Prioritize the most important perspectives.
- Determine relevance of various points of view.
- Judge the various points of view with criteria.
- Argue the validity of a particular viewpoint.

Task Starters

1. What are the opposing viewpoints?
2. How do different people and characters see this event or situation?
3. Describe the multiple perspectives on an issue or topic.
4. Identify a different point of view and explain it.
5. How does point of view affect what we learn?
6. What perspectives do experts have?
7. When is your perspective different from others? Why?

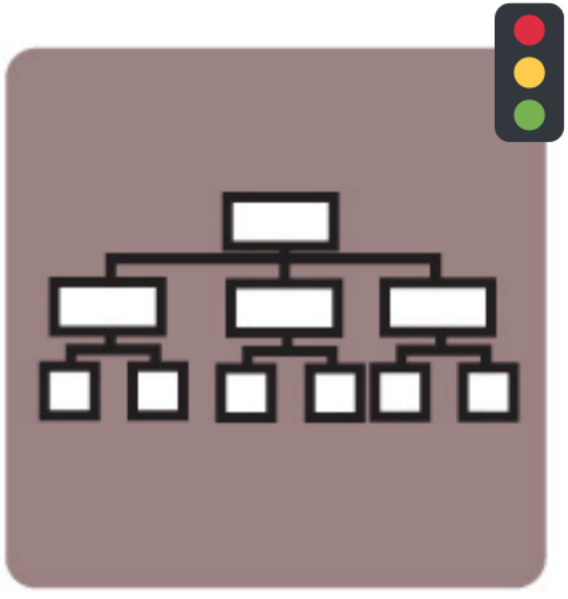
Language of Discipline

Task Starters

1. What words are specific to the work in this discipline?
2. What tools (or signs and symbols) are used by the experts in this discipline?
3. What are the origins of new terms in this discipline?

- Identify/list/define the terms.
- Identify relationships among the terms.
- Categorize the terms or tools.
- Distinguish appropriateness of usage of the terminology.
- Determine relevance of the terms.

Rules



- Prioritize the most important rules.
- Identify relationships among rules.
- Differentiate fact from opinion and fact from fantasy and conjecture.
- Determine the relevance of the rules.
- Judge the importance of a set of rules with criteria.
- Hypothesize & generalize.

Task Starters

1. Describe the rules.
2. How is this topic structured?
3. What are the stated and unstated causes related to the description or explanation of what we are studying?
4. Identify the implicit and explicit rules.
5. How do you evaluate rules' efficiency and validity?
6. How are rules related to patterns and details?
7. Compare structural rules and procedural rules.