

## Five Levels of Content Facilitation Questions

When you are a masterful facilitator, you spend a majority of your time working with students one-on-one, in pairs, or in small groups as students are working on differentiated activities. As students are working on their activities, you'll want to have thought through a set of leveled questions to ensure that each of your learners is progressing toward and beyond content mastery. Below are the five levels of content facilitation questions with a couple of examples to highlight the progression.

Question Type	Description	ELA Example	Health Example
Comprehension	Questions that ensure students understand the content's concepts and skills	What are the elements of a story?	What does each of the basic food groups do for your body?
Application	Questions that ensure students' ability to apply learning to new situations	What is the plot of this story?	Which food groups are most important if you are running a race?
Connection	Questions that ensure students' ability to apply learning to their lives	Which character is most like you? Why?	Which food groups do you tend to eat more of, and which do you eat fewer of?
Synthesis	Questions that encourage students to create new information from existing data	How might being able to recognize literary elements help in appreciating literature?	What might be a balanced lunch using the food groups?
Metacognition	Questions that prompt students to think about their thinking processes	What do you find difficult about reading, and what strategies can help you?	How did you go about remembering the basic food groups?

**But first, access!** Prior to pushing students toward and beyond content mastery, it is essential to make sure that each of your students has access to the instructional activities. Is there a language barrier to account for? Are there accessibility accommodations that students need? Do students have a processing deficit? Access questions can be asked after your first observations and throughout the leveled questions explained above. Consider the examples below:

- Are there any words you do not understand?
- In what language do you prefer to respond to the question or prompt?
- What are the action words in the questions?
- Do you know how to use the accessibility tools?

Below is a variety of examples for each type of content facilitation question. After reviewing the samples, use the brainstorm organizer provided to brainstorm your own set of questions for an upcoming instructional unit.

Question Type	Example Questions
Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would you calculate the area of a rectangular garden that measures 12 meters in length and 8 meters in width?</li> <li>• How are liquid matter and gas matter alike? How are they different?</li> <li>• What sound does this letter [B] make?</li> <li>• What are the main character's motivations and actions at the beginning of the novel?</li> <li>• How do the principles of progressive overload and specificity play a role in achieving fitness goals?</li> </ul>
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you point to where our classroom is on this map of the school, and tell me what's nearby?</li> <li>• Using a basic programming concept you've learned, can you write a short program or algorithm to solve a simple problem, such as calculating the sum of numbers from 1 to 10?</li> <li>• Name another situation where this information would be useful.</li> <li>• Can you select a character from the book we've been reading and compose a journal entry from their perspective?</li> </ul>
Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What data in your life could be represented by a linear function?</li> <li>• How do you think tempo (speed) of a song can affect the mood or feeling it conveys?</li> <li>• How do historical events we've discussed in this unit relate to current events or issues in the world today?</li> <li>• Can you think of a character from a story we read today that reminds you of someone you know in real life?</li> </ul>
Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you make up a dance that mixes two different dance styles? Why did you choose those styles and how do they blend together?</li> <li>• Can you draw a picture or describe how the rain helps plants grow?</li> <li>• What might the civil rights movement of the future be?</li> <li>• How do different types of physical activities, such as running, jumping, and stretching, contribute to our overall fitness and well-being?</li> </ul>
Metacognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the hardest part of this task for you?</li> <li>• When you're solving a math problem, what strategies do you use to check if your answer is correct?</li> <li>• When approaching certain assignments, how do you decide what steps to take to research, organize information, and complete your work effectively?</li> <li>• As you collaborate with your peers, how do you assess your own contributions and the effectiveness of the group's work?</li> </ul>

## Brainstorm Organizer — Five Levels of Content Facilitation Questions

Question Type	Brainstormed Questions
Comprehension	
Application	
Connection	
Synthesis	
Metacognition	