

## Five Levels of Content Facilitation Questions — Primary

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	Who are the characters in the story?	What foods help your body grow strong?
Application	Questions that ensure students' ability to apply learning to new situations	Can you tell what happened at the beginning, middle, or end of the story?	Which foods would be good to eat before playing outside?
Connection	Questions that ensure students' ability to apply learning to their lives	Have you ever felt like the character? What happened?	What healthy foods do you like to eat at home or school?
Synthesis	Questions that encourage students to create new information from existing data	Can you draw or tell a new ending for the story?	Can you make a healthy meal using foods we learned about?
Metacognition	Questions that prompt students to think about their thinking processes	What helped you understand the story today?	How did you remember which foods are healthy?

**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:

- Do you know what this word means?
- Can you show me what to do?
- Would you like to answer with words, pictures, or pointing?
- Do you need help getting started?

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>• What sound does this letter make?</li> <li>• What do you notice in this picture?</li> <li>• Can you tell me what happened first in the story?</li> <li>• What is this object called?</li> <li>• Can you show me where the number is?</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>• Can you use this tool the way we practiced?</li> <li>• Can you sort these objects by color or shape?</li> <li>• Can you try the same strategy with this new problem?</li> </ul>
Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does this story remind you of something you've done?</li> <li>• When have you felt the same way as this character?</li> <li>• Where do you see this in our classroom or at home?</li> <li>• Can you think of a character from a story we read today that reminds you of you or someone you know in real life?</li> </ul>
Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you draw a picture or describe how the rain helps plants grow?</li> <li>• Can you make up a new ending to the story?</li> <li>• Can you build something that shows how this works?</li> <li>• Can you show what happens if we change one part?</li> </ul>
Metacognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the trickiest part of this task for you?</li> <li>• What helped you keep going when it was hard?</li> <li>• How did you decide what to do next?</li> <li>• How did you help your group work together?</li> </ul>

## Brainstorm Organizer — Five Levels of Content Facilitation Questions

Question Type	Brainstormed Questions
Comprehension	
Application	
Connection	
Synthesis	
Metacognition	