

Questions Starters Based on the Six Facets of Understanding

| Facets of Understanding | Questions Starters |
|-------------------------|--|
| Explanation | <p>Who? What? When? How? Why?</p> <p>What is the key concept/idea in ___?</p> <p>What are examples of ___?</p> <p>What are the characteristics/parts of ___? Why is this so?</p> <p>How might we prove/confirm/justify ___?</p> <p>How is ___ connected to ___?</p> <p>What might happen if ___?</p> |
| Interpretation | <p>What is the meaning of ___?</p> <p>What does ___ reveal about ___?</p> <p>How is ___ like ___? (metaphor/analogy)</p> <p>How does ___ relate to me/us? So what? Why does it matter?</p> |
| Application | <p>How and when can we use this (knowledge/process) ___?</p> <p>How is ___ applied in the larger world?</p> <p>How could we use ___ to overcome ___ (obstacle, constraint, challenge)?</p> <p>What couldn't we do if we didn't understand ___?</p> |
| Perspective | <p>What the different points of view about ___?</p> <p>How might this look from ___'s perspective?</p> <p>How is ___ (similar to/different from) ___?</p> <p>What are the strengths and weaknesses of ___?</p> <p>What are the limits of ___?</p> <p>What is the evidence for ___? Is the evidence reliable? Sufficient?</p> |
| Empathy | <p>What would it be like to walk in ___'s shoes?</p> <p>How might ___ feel about ___?</p> <p>How might we reach an understanding about ___?</p> <p>What was ___ trying to make us feel/see?</p> |
| Self-knowledge | <p>How do I know ___?</p> <p>What are the limits of my knowledge about ___?</p> <p>What are my "blind spots" about ___?</p> <p>How can I best show ___?</p> <p>How are my views about ___ shaped by ___ (experiences, assumptions, habits, prejudice, style)?</p> <p>What my strengths and weaknesses in ___?</p> |

Source: Wiggins, G., & McTigue, J. (2005). *Understanding by design*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.