

Checklist for Evaluating Question Quality¹

Lessons Under Review (include page numbers): _____

For each lesson reviewed, check (✓) if “yes” and leave blank if “no.”

✓if “yes”	✓if “yes”	✓if “yes”	✓if “yes”	✓if “yes”	Criteria	Comments/Questions/Fixes (refer to specific questions!)
A. Text-Dependent Questions (When evaluating questions, discard all questions that get a “no” in Section A.)						
					A1. Does the student have to read the text to answer each question?	
					A2. Is it always clear to students that answering each question requires using evidence from the text to support their claims? (Reading Standard 1 should always be in play!)	
B. Text-Specific Questions						
					B1. Are the questions specific enough so they can be answered only by reference to this text? (Can they be answered with careful reading rather than background knowledge?)	
					B2. Are the questions tied to level-specific standards?	

¹ Adapted from *Checklist for Evaluating Question Quality* from Student Achievement Partners. <http://achievethecore.org/page/47/checklist-for-evaluating-question-quality>

C. Sequence of Questions That Build Knowledge					
					C1. Do the early questions in the sequence focus on specific phrases and sentences to support basic comprehension of the text and develop student confidence before moving on to more challenging tasks?
					C2. Are the questions coherently sequenced? Do they build toward gradual understanding of the text's meaning?
					C3. Do the questions stay focused on the text and go beyond it to make other connections in extension activities only <i>after</i> the text has been explored?
					C4. If multiple texts/different media are under consideration, are students asked to examine each text closely before making connections between texts?
D. Well-Constructed Culminating Task or Writing Prompts					
					D1. Does the culminating task or writing prompt(s) call on the knowledge and understanding acquired through the questions?
					D2. Does the culminating task or writing prompt(s) demand that students write to the text and use evidence?
					D3. Are the instructions to teachers and students clear about what must be performed to achieve proficiency?
					D4. Is this a writing task worthy of the student and classroom time it will consume?