Decontextualizing Questions I

What do the "question cues" mean?

Question Cue	The Meaning
Analyze	Address the *what, how* and *why* of the question. They are all linked and need to be addressed.
Defend, Justify	You outright agree with the statement or claim. Use text evidence to show why you agree with it. **Explain** your reasoning.
Determine	Make a decision. Sometimes **determine** means the same as **infer** but it is possible that there is only one right answer. No matter what, your response is always based on text evidence.
Discuss	Brainstorm ideas. Write as if you are having a conversation with another person. You have to pretend someone is talking back to you in order to increase the depth of your argument.
Evaluate	Rate, grade, assess a statement or claim. You are **determining** the *something* about an issue. This is often based on your opinion, but it is always rooted in text evidence.
Explain	Address *what, why and how*. This is similar to **infer** in that you are almost never wrong as long as you support your answer with text evidence.
Identify	Recognize *something*. Be able to locate and **explain** what the claim is asking about.
Infer, Ascertain, Speculate	You are making an educated guess that **identifies** possible explanations, perspectives or assumptions. Similar to **explain,** you are almost never wrong as long as you support your answer with text evidence.
Interpret	Explicate a statement, claim or text feature. Write the answer to the statement, claim or text feature in your own words. Then, provide an opinion that is based on evidence..
Qualify	You don't agree or disagree with the claim but you understand the author's perspective. **Explain** why you both agree and disagree. This is akin to a compare and contrast writing style.
Refute	You outright disagree with the statement or claim. Use text evidence to show why you disagree with it. **Explain** your thought process.
Synthesize, Compare, Contrast	Combine, liken or **identify** differences between two or more pieces of text or features. **Evaluate** their themes, perspectives and/or arguments. Emotion plays a part in the explanation, but text evidence is the key to the answer.

© 2015 Frank Macchi

Decontextualizing Questions II

This guide can be used two different ways. One way is to help you **answer** questions. Look at the questions and match them to a CLOSE reading metatextual marker category. Then, analyze the corresponding highlighted annotations for evidence that will support your answers.

The other way that this can be used is to help you **create** questions. Use the bulleted questioning methods to generate queries based on your contextual marker annotations.

Disclaimer: This is not a complete list, as there are countless ways to ask a question. This is designed to help recognize trends and patterns of questioning types in order to correlate them with each metatextual marker.

Yellow: Vocabulary

The question starts with-
- **Define**…
- **Verify** the meaning of…
- Use context to **identify**…
- **Determine** *the* contextual definition (FACADES) used to define…

Orange: Key Details

The question starts with-
- **Locate** the key details that support…
- **Explain** what…
- **Sequence** the steps…
- **Identify** the factors…
- **Cite** an example…

Blue: Author's Craft

The question starts with-
- **Identify** *the use* of (insert rhetorical or literary device) in the text…
- **Infer** what the author meant by the (insert literary device)…

Pink: Text Organization

The question starts with-
- **Explain** how the author has organized…
- **Discuss** the *structure*…
- *Compare and contrast*…
- **Identify** the signal words…

Green: Text Features

The question starts with-
- **Interpret** what information (choose feature)
- **Explain** how this (chart, graph table) adds to the text