Standards-Based Questions to Promote Critical Thinking about Texts

Common Core Anchor Standard for Reading[1]	Text-Dependent Questions for Connecting Multiple Texts
Standard 1 Finding evidence	• In your opinion, which text in this study presents facts, numbers, or statistics that are the most surprising or interesting? Explain your reasoning with textual evidence. • Which text in this study provides the strongest visual images for you? What do you visualize? • Which text in this study raises the most questions for you? What are the questions? • After reading all of these texts, do you have any unanswered questions? What are your questions?
Standard 2 Finding the main idea or theme; summarizing	• Do the texts in this study seem to have the same or different central ideas or themes? Explain using textual evidence. • What kind of research do you think the author of each text needed to do in order to write this [book/article/other]? • How can you apply the central idea(s) in these texts to a current problem or issue today?
Standard 3 Analyzing how events, individuals, or ideas develop and interact	• Do the facts in these sources support each other or contradict each other? Explain using details from each text. • Which text that you read shows the strongest connection between parts (like sequence of events, setting and problem or characters/people and central idea)? Explain your thinking with textual evidence.
Standard 4 Understanding word choice as craft	• Which text had the most positive tone (or seemed the most biased or generated the strongest feeling)? What words in each text lead you to this conclusion? • Looking at all of your texts together, choose ___ words that you consider the *most* important to understanding this topic. Why is each word important? • Which author is the most persuasive? How does the author's word choice help to persuade you?
Standard 5 Analyzing structure and genre	• Authors organize information in different ways. For the texts you read in this text study, which structure seemed the most helpful to you? Why? • Do these texts represent different genres or the same genre? What genre(s) are represented? • Think about the way each author presented his or her information on this topic. Which format would be best for a young child? An older child? Explain.

Standard 6 Assessing how point of view and purpose shape content and style	• Do these authors/characters/narrators seem to have the same point of view? Different point of view? What textual evidence supports this? • Do these texts all seem to have the same purpose or a different purpose? Explain your thinking. • After reading all of these texts, I agree most strongly with [author] because _____.
Standard 7 Assessment multiple forms of text	• In addition to the [article/story/other] that you read, you also viewed a [photo/video/website/other]. How did this non-print source add to or change your understanding or feelings about this topic? Explain using textual evidence. • If you viewed a live performance of content related to this topic, how did it add to your understanding or feelings about the topic? To which text did it seem to have the strongest connection? Explain.
Standard 8 Critiquing text	• Is the author of each text being fair to all sides of the topic? Explain your thinking with textual evidence. • Do you trust all of the sources you read? Look at the publication date. Look at the name of the author. Is this person considered to be an expert? • Is there any information in any of these texts that you question or think might not be correct? Explain
Standard 9 Making text-to-text connections	• If you were writing a report on ____. Where would you add the information from [text 2] to [text 1]? Why? • These texts all support a similar central idea. Identify the central idea. What is the same or different about the way each author develops this central idea? • Which text in this study seems the strongest in terms of [message/character development, important facts, and so on]? • Find another text that would add to your understanding of this topic. Why did you choose this particular text? • Which text seemed the most personally relevant to you? Why? • Which text had the clearest connection to problem or issue in our world today? Explain.

[1]National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). (2010). *Common Core English language arts standards/anchor standards/college and career ready anchor standards in reading.* Washington, DC: Authors. Retrieved from www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/R