

Topic Questions: Introduction

In this section, we provide questions that address a wide range of specific topics within the four main subject areas. Here, for example, you will find questions that relate to the study of specific literary genres in ELA, questions that relate to decimals in math, questions that relate to chemistry in science, and questions that relate to the Great Depression in social studies. *We encourage you to read several different lists within a subject area to get an idea of the types of questions that are possible.* We also encourage you to come up with your own questions. In most cases, we could have provided many more questions about the selected topics in each subject area.

A special note about math: Students will probably have little to no experience working with thoughtful, conceptual questions in the math classroom. When a question concerning math content is raised, it is usually related to the procedure and structure of how to solve specific types of problems. The intent of the math questions in this book is to move students beyond algorithms and problem solving so that they can ponder the essence of mathematical topics in our lives. This type of math question will be new and challenging to both students and teachers. The questions are intended for students who have mastered the basic mechanics of math and are ready to move beyond the problem solving stage. We encourage you to challenge these students with a different way of thinking about math.

As with all of the previous questions provided in this book, there are a great many ways to use the questions in this section in your own instruction. The Introduction provides a list of several good possibilities. ***But as we have noted already, none of the questions provided here is useful without probing, follow-up questions. Every question here must be followed up with, at the very least, "Why?"*** We have provided a sampling of probing questions in our Introduction.

