Costa’s Levels of Questioning
Key Words and Question Stems

**Level 1**

**Key Words:**
- who
- what
- why
- when
- omit
- label
- where
- which
- choose
- find
- how
- define
- show
- spell
- list
- match
- name
- relate
- tell
- recall
- select
- describe
- identify
- observe
- recite
- scan

**Question Stems:**
- * What is...?*
- * Where is...?*
- * How did ______ happen?*
- * Why did ...?*
- * When did ...?*
- * How would you show ...?*
- * Who were the main ...?*
- * How would you explain ...?*
- * How is ...?*
- * When did ______ happen?*
- * Can you recall ...?*
- * Can you select ...?*
- * Can you list the three ...?*
- * Who was ...?*
- * Which one ...?*
- * How would you describe...?*
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Level 2

Key Words:
Analyze    compare    contrast    group    infer    sequence
synthesize  interpret  explain    extend    illustrate  outline
relate      rephrase   translate  show     classify   Demonstrate
summarize

Question Stems:
* How would you classify the type of …?
* How would you compare …?
* How would you contrast …?
* How would you rephrase the meaning …?
* Which is the best answer …?
* Can you explain what is happening …?
* What facts or ideas show …?
* What is the main idea of …?
* Which statements support …?
* What can you say about …?
* How would you summarize..?
* Can you explain what is meant..?
## Costa’s Levels of Questioning

### Key words and Question Stems

#### Level 3

**Key Words:**
- apply
- evaluate
- hypothesize
- imagine
- judge
- predict
- develop
- solve
- model
- utilize
- function
- classify
- examine
- distinguish
- theme
- motive
- conclusion
- criteria
- create
- invent
- improve
- theorize
- elaborate
- compose
- design
- change
- propose
- adapt
- combine
- solution
- criticize
- decide
- defend
- prioritize
- assess
- defend
- prove
- support
- opinion
- recommend
- interpret
- relationships

### Question Stems:

- * How would you use...?  
- * Why do you think...?  
- * What is the theme...?  
- * What evidence can you find...?  
- * Can you make a distinction between...?  
- * How would you improve...?  
- * How would you test...?  
- * What facts can you compile...?  
- * Can you propose an alternative...?  
- * What would you recommend...?  
- * Why was it better that...?  
- * Based on what you know, how would you explain...?  
- * What questions would you ask in an interview with...?  
- * What examples can you find to support...?  
- * What would result if...?  
- * What inference can you make...?  
- * How would you justify...?  
- * What ideas justify...?  
- * How would you change the...?  
- * Can you predict the outcome if...?  
- * How would you prioritize...?  
- * What is your opinion...?  
- * What choice would you have made...?  
- * What changes would you make to solve...?  