

Questions for Observation and Interpretation

Components	Definitive (What?)	Rational (Why? How?)
Terms	<p>What key words require word study?</p> <p>What is the meaning of the term ____?</p> <p>How does it function in this sentence?</p> <p>What verb tenses are used?</p>	<p>Why was this word (or verb tense) used here? What other word might have been used, and why was it not?</p> <p>Why does the author change terms?</p> <p>Is this word crucial to the argument of the paragraph or book?</p>
Structure	<p>What type of sentence is this?</p> <p>What laws of structure are used? (Result/Purpose, Cause/Effect, Explanation/Reason, Association, Proportion, Repetition/Continuity, Comparison, Climax, General/Particular, Contrast, Interchange, Question/Answer, Preparation, Summation, Transition, Pivot, Illustration (main point or sub-point?))</p> <p>What key connectors are used?</p>	<p>Why was this type of sentence used?</p> <p>What are the causes, effects, reasons or purposes given in the main clauses?</p> <p>Why is this order of words, phrases or clauses used?</p> <p>What are the timeless principles taught in the main statements or clauses?</p> <p>What is the purpose of the key connectors and the associations they make?</p>
Literary Form	<p>What literary form is used?</p> <p>What are the primary characteristics of this form?</p> <p>Is the language literal or figurative?</p> <p>What figures of speech are used?</p>	<p>How does this literary form help to convey the author's meaning?</p> <p>What other form might have been used and to what effect?</p> <p>Why are the figures of speech used rather than literal language?</p> <p>What increased understanding of the truth is communicated through the figures of speech?</p>
Atmosphere	<p>What is the general atmosphere? (sarcasm, compassion, urgency, despair, humility, awe, gratitude, joy, anger, concern)?</p> <p>Is there any change in atmosphere?</p> <p>What clues does the author give to set the atmosphere of the passage?</p> <p>What emotional words are used?</p> <p>How are the author's and the audience's attitudes revealed?</p>	<p>Why does this atmosphere pervade the passage? What historical reasons might be affecting the frame of mind of the author or audience?</p> <p>What is the intended effect on the audience of the terms, structure, form and atmosphere (e.g. persuasion, motivation, repentance, encouragement)?</p>
Synthesis	<p>What is the flow of thought?</p> <p>How does this passage function within the broader structural unit of which it is a part?</p> <p>Who is the main actor? Main verb?</p>	<p>Why does each idea follow or precede another? How might the argument have been developed differently?</p> <p>How would the argument be affected if this passage were omitted?</p> <p>What may be a good summary sentence or list?</p>