

## North Montco Technical Career Center

### Questions for Organizational Patterns

#### **Cause/Effect**

- What has happened?
- What causes this to happen?
- What is the effect?
- What are the important elements or factors that cause this effect?
- How do these factors or elements interrelate?
- Will this result always happen from these causes? Why or why not?
- How would the result change if the elements or factors are different?
- What is the cause/effect process the author is describing?
- Why did a cause/effect structure emerge?

#### **Compare/Contrast**

- What elements/concepts are being compared and contrasted?
- What categories of characteristics or attributes are used to compare and contrast these things?
- How are the things alike or similar?
- How are the things not alike or different?
- What are the most important qualities or attributes that make them different?
- In terms of the qualities that are most important, are these things more alike, or more different?
- What can we conclude about these things or items?
- Why is the author comparing/contrasting these things?
- Why did the comparison/contrast structure emerge?

#### **Concept/Definition**

- What is the concept?
- To what category does it belong?
- What are its official characteristics/attributes?
- How does it work?
- What does it do?
- What are some of its functions?
- What are examples of it?
- What are examples of things that share some but not all of its characteristics/attributes?

#### **Goal/Action/Outcome**

- Who are the people or forces involved?
- What are they trying to do or achieve?
- What is their goal?
- What actions help them achieve their goal?
- What are the effects of their actions? What happens?
- Were these actions successful for achieving their goal?
- Are there unexpected outcomes from their actions?
- Would other actions have been effective?
- Could they have done something else?

#### **Problem/Solution**

- What is the problem?
- Who has the problem?
- What is causing the problem?
- What are the effects of the problem?
- Who is trying to solve the problem?
- What solutions are recommended or attempted?
- What results from these solutions?
- Is the problem solved?
- Do any new problems develop because of the solutions?

#### **Proposition/Support**

- What is the subject being described?
- What are the facts?
- What statistics support the proposition?
- Who are expert authorities on the topic?
- What examples are explained to support the proposition?
- Does the proposition make sense, is it logical?

#### **Sequence**

- What is being described in sequence?
- How does a chronological pattern emerge?
- What are the major steps/events in this sequence?
- Why is the sequence important?

BASED ON: STRATEGIC READING IN THE CONTENT AREA BY RACHEL BILLMEYER