Text-Focused Questions Handout

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| **Name:** |  | **Class:** |  | **Date:** |  |

**Building effective focus questions:**

* The goal of text-focused questions is to develop a thorough understanding of the text through careful examination. A well-developed text-focused question should do the following:
  + Identify a crucial component of the text that is valuable for comprehension.
  + Facilitate an answer that is more in depth than yes or no.
  + Require textual evidence to answer.

Example:

Why is Thoreau released from prison?

* Thoreau is released from prison because somebody pays the tax on his behalf: “[S]ome one interfered, and paid that tax” (part 3, par. 6).