Gifted Student Self-Advocacy · Grades 3–5 / 6–8 · 15 minutes · FREE

Depth and Complexity Challenge Cards

Choose real or fictional examples. Skip private details; never include passwords, medical information or contact details.

Learning goal: Use depth and complexity prompts to make an assignment deeper — not longer.

More challenge does not mean more pages or busywork. Depth and complexity prompts help you think like an expert. Cut out the cards, choose one, and apply it to something you are learning.

Your steps

1. Read the prompt cards.
2. Pick one card for a current topic.
3. Write your deeper question.
4. Plan how you would investigate it.

1. Prompt cards

Read each card. Cut them apart if you like.

PATTERNS · What repeats? What could I predict? TRENDS · What is changing, and why?

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES · How would different people see this? ETHICS · What is fair or right here?

CHANGE OVER TIME · How has this idea changed? UNANSWERED QUESTIONS · What do experts still not know?

CONNECTIONS · How does this link to another subject? BIG IDEAS · RULES · LANGUAGE OF THE DISCIPLINE

2. Make it deeper

Apply one card to a real assignment.

The assignment	The card I chose
My deeper question	How it keeps the same learning objective

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Depth and Complexity Challenge Cards · Practice & next steps

Continue your ideas from page 1. Write, draw, use symbols or ask someone to scribe. Share only what you choose.

3. Deeper, not longer

Check that your idea is real depth.

- ☐ It asks me to think, not just do more
- ☐ It keeps the original learning goal
- ☐ It is a reasonable size
- ☐ I can show evidence of learning

My addition / adjustment:

_____

My next step

The card that fits my thinking best is… because…

_____

_____

_____

Optional stretch · Grades 6–8

Combine two cards (for example, ethics + change over time) into one investigation question.

Optional teacher / parent follow-up: Use cards for depth, not extra workload. Accept spoken, drawn or written responses.

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