**DIRECTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR INTERROGATING TEXT**

**Subject Matter**

What is the subject matter (main theme) of the text? Are there sub-themes? What does the subject matter mean to you either personally or as a citizen? Is the subject matter controversial or non-controversial? How does the text fit with what you have previously learned in the course? Does it repeat previous knowledge or does it add something new? How does the subject matter fit with the knowledge to be learned in your next class? How might you use the subject matter of the text in your future working life?

**Structure and Thesis**

Has the author chosen the correct structure for the subject matter i.e. report, essay, expository text, dialogue etc? Does the title of the text reflect the subject content? Are the sub-titles appropriate? Reframe the title and the sub-titles of the text as questions? Does the text answer these questions? How is white space used in the text? What is the author’s thesis? How does the author’s thesis interpret or comment on the main theme of the text? How does the thesis support or interpret the sub-themes.

**Purpose**

Who is the author? What are the author’s credentials? Why did the author write the text? What conversation are they joining? Are they already part of this conversation through their previous writing or is this their first text on the subject matter? Who did the author write the text for (audience)? What affect is the author seeking to elicit from the reader: anger, sadness, agreement, amusement, action, understanding, awareness, etc? Does the author’s purpose change at differential intervals in the text or does it remain constant throughout? When you read the text how did you react to it? Why? Is there a community, group(s) of people or individuals who might react differently to the text? Why?

What is inferred by the text?

**Style**

What style of writing does the author adopt: formal, informal, technical, colloquial? Is this style appropriate? How are the ideas/themes expressed in the text: chronologically, broad to specific, general to particular, cause and effect? Is the text written as narrative? Or is it, descriptive, comparative, expository, or explanatory? How does the text transition between the main theme and sub-themes, or to different text segments or parts? Is the transition effective?

**Language and Tone**

Is there a dominant voice(s)? Why is this voice dominant? Is there a group or person whose voice has been muted or silenced? Is this intentional? Why? What mood or attitude does the text evoke? Does the author use imagery as illustration? Is the imagery vivid, disturbing, or persuasive? Does the author’s use hyperbole, metaphors, similes, alliteration? Which words or phrases are repeated throughout the text? Why? Are there words in the text that you don’t understand? Are they discipline specific words (terminology)? If so, how and where can you find their meaning?