MODULE 3 RESOURCE:
LIST OF TEMPLATES FOR DEVELOPING ITEM STEMS AND PROMPTS

*Passport to Great Teaching: A Practical Guide to Assessment*
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*(Section titles with an asterisk (*) are more adaptable to higher level thinking.)*

**Accuracy of interpretation***
Which is the best interpretation of
What (which) is the best interpretation for
Which interpretation of ____ is accurate
Which interpretation of ____ is most accurate based on
Which interpretation of ____ is least accurate based on

**Application***
What (which) is an application of
What (which) is an application for
What (which) is the application that
How is (are) ____ applied
How is (are) ____ applied to
When is ____ applied
Where is (are) ____ applied
Why is (are) ____ applied
Why is (are) ____ applied when
Why is (are) ____ applied to
Which application is appropriate for

**Argument***
What (which) (is, was) an argument for
What (which) (is, was) the argument given for
What is (was) the proposal that
What (which) is the main argument
What (which) is the main flaw in the argument that
What (which) is the best argument for
Which offers the best argument for
Which statement could be used as an argument for
Which statement could be used as an argument against
What (which) would be the best argument for
What (which) would be the best argument against
What would be a better argument for
What would be a better argument to support the conclusion that
What (which) is the best argument in support of
What (which) is the best argument in opposition to
What was the strongest argument made
In relation to the rest of the information given, how adequate is the argument that
In relation to the conclusion, why is the argument made in adequate (or weak)
What (which) would be the most reasonable argument for
What (which) would be the most reasonable argument against
Which argument would have the most value for
Which argument would have the most value to
Which argument best justifies the decision to
Which argument best supports the decision to

**Argument flaw***
What is a flaw in the argument that
What is a flaw in the argument for
Which statement best describes the flaw in the argument that
Which statement best describes the flaw in the argument for
Which statement best describes the flaw in the argument of

**Argument – hole, flaw, gap in argument, or reasoning***
What is a hole in the argument that
What is a hole in the argument for
What is a hole in the argument of
What is a gap in the reasoning that
What is a gap in the reasoning for
What is a gap in the reasoning of
What is a flaw in the argument that
What is a flaw in the argument for
What is a flaw in the argument of

**Category, classification, name, definition**
What (which) is the correct category of
What (which) is the correct category for
What (which) is the correct classification of
Which is the correct classification for
What (which) would _____ be classified as
What (which) is (are)
Which term means
What (which) is the term for
What (which) is the name of
What (which) is the name for
Which is the correct order for
What (which) is the definition of
What (which) is the definition for

**Causation; Consequences**
What is (are) the result(s) of
What is the significance of
What is (are) the effect(s) of
What causes
What caused
What causes _____ to
What caused _____ to
What is (was) the result of
What would be the result if
What is (are) the consequence(s) of
What is (are) the consequence(s) when
What was (were) the consequence(s) when
What is (are) the reason(s) for
What was (were) the reason(s) for
What is (are) the reason(s) that
What was (were) the reason(s) that
What lead to
What should be done if
What should be done when
How would you use
Who did
Why did
What did _____ do when
How did

Character
What was (person) like
What was (thing) like
What was (character) like
What was the attitude of
Who is (are)
Who

Conclusion
What is a logical conclusion from
What (which) is a logical conclusion for
What would be the conclusion if
Which summary statement is correct

Conclusion*
What (which) is (was) the logical conclusion drawn
Why is the conclusion drawn by _____ logical
Which is the most logical conclusion
Which statement is the fairest conclusion
Which conclusion is the most sound
Which conclusion is the most reasonable
In relation to the rest of the information given, how adequate is the conclusion that
Which argument best justifies the conclusion that
What would be the most logical decision for
Item Stem Templates

What (which) probably would have been the result if
Which result would be most likely if
Which statement is a non-biased conclusion

Constraints and barriers*
What constraints were used in the argument that
Which constraint makes the conclusion weak
Which constraints would have to be overcome in order to conclude that
Which constraints are most problematic to
What (which) is (are) the barrier(s) to overcoming the argument that
Which of the barriers presented most affects
Which of the barriers presented least affects

Correct and proper way
What (which) is the correct way
What (which) is the most effective way
What (which) is the correct way to
What (which) is the correct method for
What (which) is the proper use of
What (which) is the proper way to
What is (are) the way(s) that

Correctness/representativeness
Which statement is correct
Which idea is correct
Which statement/idea should be rejected
What though aligns with the idea that
Select the statement that represents
Select the statement that best represents
What is consistent with the statement that
Which best restates
Which statement represents the position of
Which statement best represents the position of
Which information is correct

Decisions*
What (which) decision should be made based on
Which decision is the best compromise for
Which decision would be the most reasonable for
Which decision would be the most fair to
Which decision best aligns with the logic that

Describe
What (which) describes
What (which) describes a
What (which) describes the
What (which) is the description for
What (which) is the description of
What (which) best describes
What (which) is the best description for
What (which) describes the way that
Which statement describes
Which statement best describes
Which is the statement that best describes
What (which) describes the effect of
Which description fits the
Which description is the best for
Which is an accurate description of
Which description is accurate for

**Effects, will happen, did happen**
What are the effects of
What are the effects when
What happens when
What happened when
What will happen when
What will happen if
What probably will happen when
What probably will happen if
What probably will happen next
What probably will happen next time
What probably will _____ do next
What probably will _____ do next time

**Event**
What was (event) like
Which event was important to
Which event was the most important
What (which) is (was) the event that
Which event indicated that

**Example**
What (which) is an example of
Which statement explains
What (which) explains why
Which statement explains what
What (which) explains how
What (which) best explains
What (which) best explains why
What (which) best explains what
What (which) best explains how
What shows that
What best shows that

**Fact vs. Opinion***
Which statement is fact
Which statement is opinion
Which statement is fiction

**Information needed and missing**
What information is needed for
What information is missing
Which information is needed to explain why

**Issue or question**
What question is raised by
What question would be raised by
Which question was answered when
What (which) issue is (was) raised by
Which issue was closed when
Which issue was closed by

**Justifying a point of view***
Which statement best justifies the point of view that
What is the justification for the point of view that
What would be the best justification for the point of view that
Which statement best justifies the point of view that
Which statement best justifies the point of view of
Which argument best justifies the position that
Which argument best justifies the conclusion that
Which statement is most representative of
Which statement offers the fairest judgment of
Which statement offers an unbiased judgment of
Which statement offers the most unbiased judgment of

**Location**
What (which) is the location of
What (which) is the correct location of
What (which) is the correct location for
What is the _____ located
Why is the _____ located
Where must the _____ be located so that
Where did

**Logic***
What is a flaw in the logic of
Why is the logic used inadequate in relation to the argument that
Why is the logic used inadequate for supporting the idea that
What would be the most logical conclusion for the logic that
What would be the most logical result of
Which logic would be most reasonable to use for
Which logic would be most reasonable to support
Which logic would be most effective for
Which logic would be least effective for
Which line of reasoning would have the most value for

**Meaning**
What is the meaning of
What is the meaning for
Which meaning applies
Which meaning is most correct
What is meant by
What did _____ by

**Modify, change**
How could _____ be modified to
How would _____ be modified to
How could (change) be justified
How could _____ be changed so that
What changed when

**Option**
Which is the best option
Which is the best option for

**Organize, order**
What is a flaw in the argument
What is the proper order for
In what category is (are)
In what category does (do)
Which is the correct category for
Which combination works best
Which design would be used to
Which design would be used for

**Parts, elements, features**
What is (are) the part(s) of
What is (are) the part(s) for
What are the principal elements of
What (which) are the elements of
What are the products that
What is (are) the feature(s) of
What is (are) the central feature(s)
What does _____ look like
What does (part) do
How does (part) fit with
How does (part) work with the whole
Which part is needed for
Which part is never needed for

**Position**
What (which) is (was) the position of
What (which) is (was) the position taken by
What is (was) the position taken in
What (which) would be an opposing position
What (which) would be an opposing position for
What (which) best describes the position of
What (which) would be a reasonable position to take
What (which) would be the best recommendations for
What (which) would be the most appropriate position to take
What would be the most appropriate position for

**Prediction**
What would be changed if
What would happen if
What would _____ do if
What probably would be changed if
What probably would happen if
What probably would _____ do if
What could be a solution to the problem of
What could be a solution to the problem that

**Preparation**
What (would) is needed to prepare
What is needed to prepare for
How should _____ be prepared
What (which) is the best preparation for

**Principle**
Which principle applies to
What (which) is the principle of
What (which) is the principle of
What (which) is the principle that
What is (are) the principle(s) for

**Problem, conflict**
What (which) is (was) the main problem
What (which) is (was) the biggest problem
What (which) is (was) the problem when
What (which) is (was) the main problem when
What (which) is the problem that
What (which) was the main conflict
What (which) was the biggest conflict

**Procedures, methods, rules**
What (which) is (are) the procedure(s) for
What is (are) the appropriate procedure(s) for
What (which) is (are) the proper procedure(s) for
What is (are) the procedure(s) that is (are) used
What (which) is the most appropriate procedure for
What (which) is the appropriate method for
What (which) is the most appropriate method for
What (which) is the process for
What (which) is (are) technique(s) for
What (which) is the best procedure for
What (which) is (are) the rule(s) for
What is the main rule for
What is the most important rule for
What (which) procedure
What (which) method
What (which) rule

**Purpose, main idea**
What is (was) the purpose of
What is (was) the purpose for
What is (was) the main point
What is (was) the main point of
Which is the main idea that
What is (was) the main idea
What is (was ) the best idea
What is the best idea for

**Rationale***
Which rationale supports the decision that
Which rationale best supports the decision that
Which rationale supports the conclusion that
Which rationale best support the conclusion that
What rationale was used to support the decision to
What rationale was used to support the conclusion that

**Rationale, reason**
What is the reason that
What (which) is the reason for
What does _____ contribute to
What is essential for
Why did
What explains where
Which statement tells where
Which statement explains where
What explains when
Which statement explains when
What explains how
Which statement explains how
What explains why
Which statement explains why
What shows that
What is the reason for
What is the reason that
What gives a fuller explanation to
Which statement gives a fuller explanation of
Which statement gives a fuller explanation for
Which statement gives the best explanation of
Which statement gives the best explanation for
What (which) is the main reason that

**Reaction, Response**
What (which) was the reaction of
What (which) was the reaction for
What is (was) the reaction when
What was the reaction by____ when
Which response show that
What was the response of
What was the response when

**Recommendations**
Which is the best recommendation for achieving the goal of
Which is the best recommendation for countering the argument that
Which is the best recommendation for countering the logic that
Which is the best recommendation for countering the conclusion that

**Relevance**
What is (was) the relevance of
What is (was) the relevance of the statement
Why is the statement _____ relevant
Why is the statement _____ not relevant
Why is the statement that _____ relevant to the argument that
Why is the statement that _____ not relevant to the argument that
Why is the statement that _____ relevant to the logic used
Why is the statement that _____ not relevant to the logic used

**Recommendation**
What is recommended if
What is recommended when
Why is ____ recommended when
What is the recommendation for
What is the best recommendation for

**Relationships**
What differentiates _____ from
What distinguishes _____ from
What (which is the best comparison of
What (which) shows the contrast between
What is ____ like compared to
What is the relationship of ____ to
What (which) shows that
What (which) demonstrates that
What (which) shows how
What (which) demonstrates how
What (which0 demonstrates the ability to
What (which) are basic features of
What is the significance of

**Resolution, solution**
How was the conflict of _____ resolved
How was the problem of _____ resolved
How was ____ resolved
What is (was) the solution to the problem of
What (which) would be a solution to
What (which) could be a solution to
What (which) would be the best solution to
What (which) would be the best solution for
How was the question of ____ resolved
How would a (the) question of ____ be solved
How could a (the) question of ____ be resolved
What would be an appropriate solution to
What would be the most appropriate solution to
What would be the most appropriate solution
Which solution would be the best

**Separate**
How would ____ be separated from
How could ____ be separated from
When could ____ be separated from
Why would ____ be separated from
Why should ____ be separated from
Why should ____ and ____ be separated
Why should ____ and ____ be separate
Why are ____ and ____ separate
Why are ____ and ____ always separated
Why should ____ and ____ never be separated

**Sequence**
- What (which) should be done first when
- What (which) should be done next
- What (which) should be done last
- What (which) is the _____ step to
- When did
- What (which) is the correct order of
- What (which) is the correct order for
- When did
- What (which) happened first (second, etc.)
- What (which) happened last
- What (which) happened right after
- What (which) happened just before

**Strategy**
- What strategy was used to overcome the argument that
- What (which) strategy was used to devalue the logic that
- What strategy was used to devalue the conclusion that
- What (which) obstacle has to be overcome in order to win the argument
- What (which) is (are) the main obstacle(s) to overcoming the argument that

**Supporting a position**
- Which argument best supports the position that
- Which argument best supports the conclusion that
- What would be the best argument to support the position that

**Value and merit of argument**
- Which statement best describes the value of
- Which statement is (was) most valuable to the logic of
- Which statement was most valuable for the conclusion that
- What is the value of the argument that
- Which argument has (had) the most value for solving the problem of
- Which argument has (had) the most merit for
- Which argument has (had) the most value for supporting
- Why is the statement that _____ not relevant to the conclusion (that)
- What (which) statement is (was) most relevant to
- What (which) statement is (was) most relevant to
- Why is the statement that _____ relevant to the conclusion (that)