

Asking Research Questions

From Patterns to Queries

WHAT

WHAT: DESCRIPTIVE questions ask you to **identify** and **concretize** patterns with **examples**.

How is 2.1 different from 4.4 in *The Revengers Tragedy*?

What is Vindici's attitude toward "the flesh?"

SO WHAT

SO WHAT: ANALYTICAL questions ask you to consider how the pattern you've observed

- FUNCTIONS with regard to the communication of an argument or idea;
- REVEALS an **underlying system** of values or ideas that work to make sense of the world;
- LEADS you to larger themes, ideas, contexts;
- EXPLORES RELATIONSHIPS between....

STEPPING STONES

1. PARSE your quotation:
 - a. Identify and define unfamiliar terms;
 - b. Identify important contexts;
 - c. Write the quotation out in your own words;
 - d. Identify its key ideas or positions/attitudes.
2. EXPLORE its original context;
3. APPLY its ideas to two texts from the course:
 - a. Your texts may **support** or **challenge** the quotation.
