

# Scaffolding Argument With Webb's DOK

## HOW ARGUMENT WORKS IN JIM'S CLASSROOM

The following examples come from a recent unit Jim taught on Orwell's *1984*.

### Level One (Recall)

- *Sample Task:* Define *ironic* (1) as it appears in the dictionary and (2) as you understand it in your own words.
- *What Jim's Students Did:* Looked online for simple definitions and then composed their own, setting Jim's students up to think more deeply about uses of irony in the novel.

### Level Two (Skills)

- *Sample Task:* Explain how Orwell's (2013) use of the word *victory* (e.g., Victory Mansions, Victory Gin) is ironic, supporting your answer with details or examples from the text.
- *What Jim's Students Did:* Applied this key literary term and their knowledge of how to analyze and find evidence to this novel.

### Level Three (Strategic Thinking)

- *Sample Task:* A *conditioned response* is defined as the learned response to a previously neutral stimulus. For example, let's suppose that the smell of food is an unconditioned stimulus, a feeling of hunger in response to the smell is an unconditioned response, and the sound of a whistle is the conditioned stimulus. The conditioned response would cause you to feel hungry when you heard the sound of the whistle.

Respond to the claim that everyone's behavior during the Two Minutes Hate (2013, pp. 11-17) is a conditioned response. In your response, you should agree, disagree, or do both (agree *and* disagree). Explain your reasoning, supporting your explanation with examples from the text.

- *What Jim's Students Did:* Drew together a number of skills—*analysis, organization, and support*, for instance—to produce a synthesized piece that made a clear argument.

### Level Four (Extended Thinking)

- *Sample Task:* Think back to the lessons from your history class earlier this year concerning behavior during the 1950s and the McCarthy era. What do you think Orwell would have said about the reactions of US citizens to the House Un-American Activities Committee trials? Using evidence from your notes or research, argue that Orwell would or would not have characterized these reactions as conditioned responses.
- *What Jim's Students Did:* Linked their current study to another discipline and unit, prompting thinking that required making connections and revisiting material.