

Challenge The Text Answer Key

Sample Critical Questions

1. **Question:** Is there evidence that *all* students need advanced math to succeed in everyday life?
 - **Why important:** Challenges the author's sweeping claim by asking for proof.
2. **Question:** Could requiring advanced math discourage students with strengths in other subjects, like art, writing, or vocational skills?
 - **Why important:** Brings up the assumption that math is the *only* way to prepare for success.
3. **Question:** Are there other skills (financial literacy, communication, problem-solving) that might be just as important as advanced math for the "real world"?
 - **Why important:** Highlights that the author overlooks alternative skills.

(Students' own questions may vary, but they should challenge assumptions, evidence, or logic in the passage.)

Reflection (Sample Responses)

- **Agree Example:** "I agree with the author because math strengthens critical thinking, and many careers require problem-solving skills that math develops."
- **Disagree Example:** "I disagree with the author because not all students plan to enter fields requiring advanced math, and other real-world skills can be equally valuable."

Teacher Guide/Notes

- **Skill Emphasis:** This activity helps students learn to **question authority and text** rather than passively accept claims.
- Encourage students to avoid "yes/no" questions and instead ask **why, how, or what-if** questions.
- Extension activity: Pair students to swap questions, then have each partner attempt to *answer* the other's challenges as if they were the author.