

Question Formulation Technique (QFT) Steps

1. The teacher designs a question focus (QFocus) considering the following:
 - It has a clear focus.
 - It is not a question.
 - It provokes and stimulates new lines of thinking.
 - It does not reveal teacher preferences or bias.
 - It could be a visual image, artifact, music, quotation or a political cartoon.
 - It should be tested out with a colleague.
2. Teach students the rules for producing questions.
 - Ask as many questions as you can.
 - Do not stop to judge, discuss, edit, or answer any question.
 - Write down every question exactly as it was asked.
 - Change any statements into questions.
3. Student producing questions.
 - In small groups, students produce as many questions as they can without stopping to judge or answer.
 - A recorder writes down every question exactly as it is stated.
 - Students should change statements into questions.
4. Students work with open-ended and close-ended questions.
 - Teacher gives a simple explanation of difference between close-ended questions (those that can be answered with a yes or no or a single word) and open-ended questions (those that need more explanation). Discuss with students the advantages and disadvantages of each.
 - Students categorize questions as open or closed.
 - Students should change one question from open to closed and one question from closed to open.
5. Students prioritize questions.
 - Students prioritize the questions they have generated choosing what they consider to be the three most important questions.
 - Students provide a rationale for their choices.
 - Small groups share their questions with the class.
6. Teacher and students discuss next steps for using the questions.
 - Student input can vary (e.g. They might use their own questions, or the teacher and students may choose one compelling question for the whole class to pursue.)
 - Can lead to research, an experiment, an essay, preparation for an interview or Socratic seminar, etc.
7. Reflect on the process
 - Ask students to think about the work they have done, what they have learned and its value.