Question Formulation Technique (QFT)

9th-12th

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Introduction to QFT

The Question Formulation Technique, or QFT, is a structured approach for creating and enhancing questions that was created by the Right Question Institute. It reduces complex varieties of divergent, convergent, and metacognitive thinking into a straightforward, approachable, and repeatable technique.

The QFT develops the ability to ask questions, a crucial but frequently undervalued lifelong learning skill that enables individuals to think critically, feel more power and self-efficacy, and become more self-assured and prepared to engage in civic life. Check out this video for help completing the QFT.

Courtesy of the Right Question Institute

Steps of QFT

Step 1: The Question Focus (QFocus)

The QFocus serves as a catalyst for questions and connects to your lesson topic. The QFocus can be anything that prompts further inquiry, including a statement, phrase, word, graphic, audio, video, or equation. It should be relevant to the subject or desired learning outcomes and may not even be a question. A good QFocus should promote alternative thinking and be easy to understand.

Steps 2: Produce Questions Using 4 Rules

Give students 1 minute to write as many quetions as they can on a piece of paper. Make sure to display the following rules for students to follow while constructing questions.

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.
3. Write down every question exactly as it is stated.
4. Change any statement into a question.

Steps 3: Classify Questions

Sort the previously created questions as a whole group first. Classify questions as open or closed. Work as a whole group to change the type of questions, then move students into groups and partners to practice changing questions.

Step 4: Prioritizing Questions

Have students vote on the top three questions they felt were most important, or the questions they wanted to find answers to first, to prioritize them; keep other questions visible so early finishers have more to explore.

Step 5: Next Steps

Lead students through reading and research by modeling how to find answers within a text or on the computer. Show students how to take notes by using their own words and transfer into paragraphs.