



Purpose-Driven Inquiry

Purpose-driven inquiry helps us draft strong inquiry questions by clarifying what we want to understand before worrying about how to phrase a question. Use this chart to name your learning goal, then match it with question stems that will help you ask a clear, meaningful inquiry question.

If you think of other types of information that would be useful for you or your classmates to explore that aren't included here, simply identify what you want to discover/understand and draft question formats that will help you attain that information.

What you're trying to find out	Potential question format
Cause	What actions/events caused ____?
Effect	What were the results of ____?
Motive	Why did ____ do ____?
Connections	How does ____ inform our understanding of ____?
Details to provide explanations	What was the date/location/names of people/things involved? And how does this information explain ____?
Details to provide context for an event within a larger historical topic	What was the date/location/names of people/things involved? And how does this information about ____ affect ____?
Details to support an argument	What was the date/location/names of people/things involved? And how does this information corroborate or combat my thesis?
People/groups' opinions	How did ____ feel about ____? Why did ____ consider ____ positive/negative/ambivalent?
<i>[The information you want]</i>	<i>[The question format]</i>