

Question Formulation Technique

Task: Generate inquiry questions about the primary source image using the Question Formulation Technique (QFT).

Part 1: Ask Questions

Instructions: Reflect on the image below and ask as many questions as you can. Write down every question exactly as you think of it. Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer the questions. List and number your questions in the box below.



Pocahontas, c. 1590 - Mar 1617

[National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; transfer from the National Gallery of Art; gift of the A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, 1942](#)

Questions:



Part 2: Improve your Questions

Instructions:

1. Go down your list of questions above and label each with a “C” for **closed-ended** or “O” for **open-ended**.
 - a. **Closed-ended:** can be answered with “yes” or “no” or with one word.
 - b. **Open-ended:** require an explanation and cannot be answered with “yes”, “no”, or one word.
2. Now, change one question on your list from closed to open, and one from open to closed.
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of asking each type of question?

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Closed-Ended		
Open-Ended		

Part 3: Strategize & Search

Instructions:

4. Look at your list and choose your 3 most important questions. Write them in the first column below.
5. Use the internet to find answers to these three questions & record your responses in the second column. Cite your sources by hyperlinking them in the third column.

Question	Response	Links for sources you references





Part 4: Reflect

How did that activity impact your use of inquiry as a tool to understand the primary source?