

DESIGNING THE QUESTION FOCUS (QFOCUS)

Introduction to QFocus Design

The Question Focus is the catalyst for students to generate their own questions. The QFocus should be directly related to the content you need to teach and what they need to learn. You will need a QFocus each time you use the Question Formulation Technique.

Go through the step-by-step process to design a QFocus you can use to teach your students to ask their own questions.

Subject area: _____ Grade: _____

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Lesson/Unit focusing on: | |
| 2. Specific topic you will covering: | |
| 3. Name your purpose of using the QFT: | <input type="checkbox"/> generate interest <input type="checkbox"/> stimulate new thinking <input type="checkbox"/> deepen comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> gather information about student understanding <input type="checkbox"/> introduce new topic <input type="checkbox"/> other (state below) |
| 4. Name the place in the unit or lesson where you will use the Question Formulation Technique: | <input type="checkbox"/> at the beginning <input type="checkbox"/> in the middle <input type="checkbox"/> at the end <input type="checkbox"/> at different points in the unit/lesson |
| 5. Name how students' questions will be used (immediately or at a later point): | <input type="checkbox"/> conduct research <input type="checkbox"/> write papers/essays <input type="checkbox"/> develop a group project <input type="checkbox"/> individual projects <input type="checkbox"/> Socratic seminars/debates <input type="checkbox"/> prepare for presentations/interviews <input type="checkbox"/> other: (Explain below). |

QUESTION FOCUS FORMAT AND CRITERIA

The QFocus can be a statement, a visual or aural aid in any medium related to the content you are teaching.

Three basic criteria for designing a QFocus:

- *It should not be a question.*
- *It should produce different lines of questioning.*

- *Simple, but not too simple.*

PROCESS FOR DESIGNING THE QFOCUS

- List 3-4 ideas you could use for a Question Focus.
- Try to imagine different lines of questioning.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

- Assess whether or not your QFocus meets the basic criteria and your purpose for using the QFT. Check all that apply.

| Criteria | Idea # | | | |
|---|--------|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ○ <i>It is <u>not</u> a question.</i> | | | | |
| ○ <i>It can stimulate different lines of questioning.</i> | | | | |
| ○ <i>Simple, but not too simple.</i> | | | | |
| ○ Meets your purpose in using the QFT | | | | |

- Choose the QFocus idea that best meets your purpose in using the QFT.
- Think about the reasons why you chose this QFocus idea.
- Get feedback from peers and colleagues to improve the QFocus.