

5 Question Structures to Improve Higher Order Thinking

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The Power of Why?

Why is a simple question that requires students to provide evidence/justify their answer. It forces students to consider process and explain their thinking.

What? So What? Now What?

These allow students to go beyond fact based questions. What asks for simple information. So What asks students to interpret. Now What asks students to apply.

Question Flooding

Throw out a concept or topic, and have students generate as many questions as come to mind about the topic. Then have students narrow the list to generate research topics.

Open or Closed?

Consider the number of open vs. closed questions that you ask each day. Before a lesson, write down 5 open questions that go with your daily lesson. to ensure that they are asked.

Question Formulation Technique

Dan Rothstein & Luz Santana share the QFT which provides a framework for students to generate/refine questions to prepare for research. Students then reflect to think critically.