

Thinking Tool

QUESTION STORMS

It was once said, *judge a person by their questions, not their answers*. The more thoughtful questions are about a topic or issue, the more that is uncovered and learnt about it. When listening to another person or a teacher speaking about an issue, situation, topic or problem, slow down your thinking to explore what they are saying and come up with questions which will tease out more information for you.

There are different types of questions for different purposes and motives. The questions in the Thinking Tools are designed to encourage to self-assess on your thoughts about the topics to build new brain pathways for your thinking to follow.

Following are series of different types of questions for you to try and be on the lookout for.

“The flower is the entire world, and the leaf is a ray of enlightenment.”

Buddhist Saying

Question Types: do I use each of these? Rate myself...

Open - to draw information out and encourage others' input. They begin with who, what and how.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Closed - to steer a discussion in a certain direction with questions whose answers can only be yes or no.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Multiple - to confuse the answerer by asking several questions in the same sentence.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Reflective - to clarify uncertainties and summarise understanding of main issues to move forward.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Probing - to encourage and challenge deeper investigation and discussion about an issue.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Hypothetical - to explore where 'what ifs' take the discussion and the possible consequent outcomes.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Leading - to gain support for an idea by questions about beliefs, values and feelings about it.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Loaded - to limit the scope of answers to the one the questioner wishes to hear and discuss.

☐ Usually ☐ Sometimes ☐ Not Yet

Examples of each question type.

How do you think?
What do you believe is.....?
How should we proceed.....?

Do we need to know more?
Are you in favour of the idea?
Should we consider this?

Do we know enough, should we continue on or are we going over old ground we have already covered?

What are the pluses, minuses and interesting issues?
What are the key points behind the central theme?

What are the implications if we choose this solution?
What are facts behind your interpretations about this issue?

What would happen if this situation was reversed?
If he became leader of the group what would happen?

As students shouldn't we all feel this way about this issue?
Wouldn't doing this be the honest thing to do?

Are you still working too hard?
Don't you think doing that would be an expensive option to take?

What are two questions of each type I could ask for what I'm looking at?