

Question formulation

A four-year old child will ask as many as 300 questions a day. By the time they turn 12, this number will drop almost to zero, as their curiosity is replaced by rote acceptance of facts. The Question Formulation Technique (QFT; Rothstein & Santana, 2017) is a helpful way to generate questions that reignite curiosity.

Note that “closed” questions require a simple *yes* or *no* response while “open” questions require a more considered answer.

Step 1: Generate questions (always worded in the form of a question).

- Quantity is more important than quality.
- Do *not* stop to discuss, judge or answer any question.
- Record questions *exactly* as they are stated.

Step 2: Categorize all questions as “open” or “closed”.

Step 3: Change one “open” question to “closed” and vice versa.

Step 4: Place an “X” next to your three best questions.

Question	Circle One	Check
1) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
7) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
8) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
9) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
10) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
11) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
12) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
13) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
14) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
15) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
16) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
17) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
18) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
19) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
20) _____	OPEN CLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>

To learn more about the QFT, visit the Right Question Institute at <https://rightquestion.org/>