

The Question Formulation Technique™ (QFT™) for Science

1. Observe a phenomenon

2. Produce questions about the phenomenon

Four Rules for Producing Questions

- Ask as many questions as you can
- Do not discuss, judge or answer the questions
- Write down every question exactly as it is asked
- Change any statements into questions

3. Determine the next steps for using the questions

- Design an Investigation
- Formative Science Talk
- Creating an initial model
- Research
- Design Project

4. Categorize questions based on one or more of the following criteria

- Open/Closed Questions
- Testable/non-Testable (Investigable/non-Investigable)
- Type of Investigation Required (Comparative/Descriptive/Experimental)
- Type of Data Generated (Qualitative/Quantitative)
- Where answers can be found (dictionary, Wikipedia, Google Sites, cutting edge-answer not known)

5. Prioritize questions based on the next steps (Use investigable questions for designing an investigation, use open ended questions for a science talk, etc.)

6. Reflection on the process

- What did you learn from using the QFT?
- How did you learn that?

Adapted from materials provided by the Right Question Institute, Harvard University <http://rightquestion.org/> ©2012 The Right Question Institute with supplemental information from: Sharkawy, A. (2010). A Quest to Improve: Helping students learn how to pose investigable questions. *Science & Children*, 48(4), 32-35

