

# Question-storming

The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) from the Right Question Institute is a simple step-by-step process that facilitates the asking of many questions. The process includes the following steps:

1. A Question Focus
2. Producing Questions
3. Categorizing Questions
4. Prioritizing Questions

**1. The Question Focus (QFocus)** – A stimulus; a springboard you will use to ask questions. The QFocus can be a topic, image, phrase or situation that will serve as the “focus” for generating questions. An effective QFocus should be clear, should provoke and stimulate new lines of thinking and should not be a question.

**The Rules for Producing Questions** – Each of the four rules supports a behavior that facilitates effective question formulation.

- Ask as many questions as you can
- Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer any questions
- Write down every question exactly as it is stated
- Change any statement into a question

**2. Produce Questions** - Formulate as many questions as you can. Ask all kinds of questions about the topic, phrase, image, situation, etc. presented. Please make sure to follow the rules. This part of the process allows you to think freely without having to worry about the quality of the questions you are asking. No judgement!

**Allow 10 minutes**

**3. Improving the Questions** – Once you have a list of questions, the next step is to think about two different types of questions you might have on your list: *closed-ended*

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*questions*– questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” or with one word - and *open-ended questions* –questions that require and explanation.

Choose a couple of questions and change questions from one type to another. Changing the questions will help you learn how to edit your questions to meet your purpose.

**Allow 10 minutes**

**4. Prioritizing Questions** – You might have a lot of questions on your list. It will be easier to work with the questions if some priorities are established. You will now choose three questions based on actions you want to take.

For example, three most important questions, three questions you would like to address first, three questions you want to explore further, etc.

After choosing the priority questions your next step is to name a rationale for choosing.

**Allow 5-10 minutes**

Take your one key question and use this to generate ideas, or take your top 3 and in separate groups work on the question, to further expand your options.

Technique adapted from [www.rightquestion.org](http://www.rightquestion.org)