**Monica Berger, Nov. 13, 2020**

**QFT Method for Developing a Research Question**

Question Formulation Technique or QFT is a technique to help [“stimulate three types of thinking: divergent thinking, convergent thinking, and metacognitive thinking.”](https://rightquestion.org/what-is-the-qft/) This exercise lends itself well to developing a research question that is based on an individual student’s curiosity. In addition to QFT, mindmapping can be a useful technique to help students narrow down their topic and generate subtopics suitable for an outline or simply that are specific enough for productive research. Background reading, whether an article from an encyclopedia or a newspaper, is also helpful to generate keywords but doesn’t necessary result in questions.

The instructor or librarian covers the difference between open and closed questions and provides examples of then. Explains how open and closed questions can inform each other and that closed questions are not necessarily suitable for the final research question but can enrich the final research question. All questions are good.

In class exercise or homework:

Step 1: write down every possible question you can think of related to your topic. Try to find at least five questions.

Step 2: spend two minutes coding the questions into open and closed

Step 3: evaluate what is good and bad about each question

Step 4: prioritize your questions to help you begin to focus on what speaks to you most and seems to be the best research question

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Question | Open or closed? | Pros and cons of question | Rank importance, 1=top |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |