

Sample Minute Paper Questions

tinyurl.com/minutepapers

The Minute Paper is a very commonly used classroom assessment technique. It really does take about a minute and, while usually used at the end of class, it can be used at the end of any topic discussion. Its major advantage is that it provides rapid feedback on whether the professor's main idea and what the students perceived as the main idea are the same. Sometimes, instead of asking for the main point, a professor may wish to probe for the most disturbing or most surprising item. It is thus a very adaptable tool.

For the end of class:

- What was the muddiest point of the class?
- What was the most confusing point in today's class?
- What question remains unanswered in your mind?
- What was the most important point of the class?
- What was the most surprising idea or concept?
- What question from this class might appear on the next quiz/test?
- What was the main concept illustrated by the in-class demonstration/experiment?

Other example questions or prompts:

- List the three most important "take-aways" from the week's readings or from last week's class.
- Would you agree or disagree with this statement: . . .? Why?
- What was the most persuasive or convincing argument (or counterargument) that you heard expressed in today's discussion?
- Was there a position taken in today's class that you strongly disagreed with, or found to be disturbing and unsettling?
- What idea expressed in today's class strongly affected or influenced your personal opinions, viewpoints, or values?

When turning in a paper:

- I'm most satisfied with... I'm least satisfied with... I'm having problems with...
- In writing this essay, what did you learn that surprised you? When editing your paper, what were you unsure about?
- Point out specific places in your argument at which you were aware of accommodating your audience (their knowledge or attitudes). Point out places in which you used sentences for rhetorical effect.
- Why did you choose this particular arrangement? What would you do differently if you had more time?
- What particularly pleases you about this argument? What in your writing process has changed since the beginning of the course?