

Changing the Questions (Question Organizer)

	Topic #1 _____	Topic #2 _____
Which one? (Collect information to make an informed choice.) <i>E.g.</i> , Which 20th-century president did the most to promote civil rights?		
How? (Understand problems and perspectives, weigh options, and propose solutions.) <i>E.g.</i> , How should we solve the problem of water pollution in our neighborhood?		
What if? (Use the knowledge you have to pose a hypothesis and consider options.) <i>E.g.</i> , What if the Bill of Rights had abolished slavery?		
Should? (Make a moral or practical decision based on evidence.) <i>E.g.</i> , Should we clone humans?		
Why? (Understand and explain relationships to get to the essence of a complicated issue.) <i>E.g.</i> , Why do people abuse children?		

Brainstorm two topics related to the unit we are studying. Use the cues to develop essential questions that will help you focus your research. You don't need to fill in every box.

Question Checklist Directions:

Use the checklist to see if your questions are **closed** or **open**:

The question is **closed** because it:

_____ needs only facts to answer

_____ needs only a short answer

_____ begins with who, what, where or when or is a yes or no question

_____ will only take a little research to answer

OR The question is **open** because it:

_____ needs both facts and opinions to answer

_____ needs a long answer

_____ begins with how, why, which, should, what if

_____ will take a lot of research to answer

(graphic organizer from *PowerTools Recharged*, by Joyce Valenza;
checklist adapted from AASL *Learn4Life Lesson Plan Database*)