



Asking the Right Questions



Closed Questions - are fact-based or based on previously learned information (memory recall), promote limited discussion, and can require only a yes/no response. Closed questions are useful for testing knowledge and checking information retention.

Tips: Questions that begin with who, what, when, where, and name and sometimes how and why tend to be closed questions.

Create a closed question for each of the following:

- Fact-based—
- Based on previous experience or learning -
- Requires only a yes or no response -



Open Questions - do not have a single or right answer, promote discussion and interactions, stimulate thinking and creativity, promote speculation and formation of hypotheses, and encourage more learner questions. Open questions generally ask the learner to use judgment, value or choice and therefore, everyone can participate at his or her own level since the response is based on the individual's viewpoint.

Tips: Questions that use the terms discuss, interpret, explain, evaluate, compare, if, or what if are usually open questions that will encourage further thinking and exploration.

Create an open question for each of the following:

- Do not have a single or right answer -
- Promote discussion or interaction -
- Promote speculation or hypothesis -



Adapted from: Tools of the Trade II...4-H Afterschool Training Guide©

