The Question Formulation Technique™ (QFT™)

1. **USE A FOCUS to ask questions about.**
2. **PRODUCE YOUR QUESTIONS**

* **Four Essential Rules for Producing Your Own Questions:**
  + 1. Ask as many questions as you can
    2. Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer the questions
    3. Write down every question *exactly* as it is stated
    4. Change any statement into a question

1. **IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS**

* Categorize your questions as investigable or non-investigable:
  + Investigable questions meet the following criteria:
* I do not already know the answer(s) to this question.
* Question leads to a plan for what I need to do to answer the question, including the evidence I need to collect.
* This question can be answered with available material.
* This question can be answered in a reasonable amount of time.
  + Write INV next to investigable questions
  + Cross out non-investigable questions or rewrite them so they can be investigated.
* Categorize the questions as Closed- or Open-ended:
  + Closed-ended questions can be answered with “yes” or “no” or with one word.
  + Open-ended questions require an explanation and cannot be answered with “yes” or “no” or with one word.
  + Find closed-ended questions. Mark them with a “c.”
  + The other questions must be open-ended. Mark them with an “o.”
  + Discuss the value of each type of question:
  + Advantages & disadvantages of closed-ended questions
  + Advantages & disadvantages of open-ended questions
  + Change questions from one type to another:
  + Change one closed-ended question to open-ended.
  + Change one open-ended question to closed-ended.

1. **PRIORITIZE YOUR QUESTIONS**

* Choose your three most important questions.
* Why did you choose these three as the most important?
* What are the numbers of your priority questions?

*Adapted from materials provided by the Right Question Institute, Harvard University* [*http://rightquestion.org/*](http://rightquestion.org/)

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*Sharkawy, A. (2010). A Quest to Improve: Helping students learn how to pose investigable questions.*Science & Children,*48(4), 32-35*