Tips For Generating Great Questions

Developing your own questions around a topic means you can follow your own curiosity and tap into your own interests around that topic. You can base your questions around your existing knowledge and use the questions you create as a guide to new information.

Some different types of questions

There are different types of questions that will determine the type of answer you will gain through your inquiry. You will need to decide which type of question is most suited to your topic or line of inquiry:

- **Factual questions –** Factual questions are those that deal with facts and can be answered using facts. Factual questions often start with 'What'.
- **Debatable questions –** Debatable questions are questions that require an opinion. There are no right or wrong answers; instead, the answers can be debated. You could start your debatable questions with a 'Do', 'Is', 'Could', 'Should', 'Would' or 'To what extent'.
- **Conceptual questions –** Conceptual questions are questions that are open-ended and that encourage you to be thoughtful in your response. Conceptual questions often start with 'How' or 'Why'.

The difference between closed and open-ended questions

- **Closed questions –** These are questions that can be answered with a 'yes', 'no' or a very short statement.
- **Open-ended questions –** These are questions that can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', but instead require an explanation or justification.

While both types of questions have their purposes, open-ended questions will encourage you to engage more deeply with a topic.

Some tips for creating great questions

Ensure your question helps you understand your topic or area of inquiry more deeply. The aim of the question you generate is to help you understand your topic or area of inquiry more deeply – so make sure that your question guarantees a thoughtful and informative answer.

Check you have the resources you need to answer your question – consider the resources available and make sure you write a question that you'll be able to find an answer to.

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