

# Powerful Questions

The Powerful Questions technique is designed to enhance students' comprehension, inferential thinking, and inquiry skills through observation and question generation based on an object, photograph image, illustration, word, title, and/or phrase.



- **Technique Overview:** Students observe an object or image and generate questions without receiving answers, which helps develop their inquiry and observation skills.
- **Object or Image Selection:** Choosing objects or images with some ambiguity or relevance to the subject being studied can stimulate curiosity and deeper observation.
- **Implementation Steps:** Students quietly observe the object or image, ask questions, and the teacher records these questions without providing answers, occasionally guiding the discussion with new questions.

The Powerful Questions technique fosters comprehension, inferential thinking, listening skills, and interest by using an object or image as a focal point for questions, enhancing observation and inquiry skills. Students observe and generate questions without receiving answers, promoting deeper understanding. Objects should be common or ambiguous, and images should contain unknown elements. This technique can be used with texts, books, or newspapers to introduce or anticipate content.

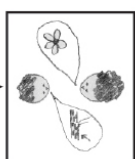
Questions can be recorded for future reference (e.g. predictions, Socratic Seminar), and the teacher occasionally asks questions to deepen the inquiry. The teacher does not provide answers but facilitates the process by rereading the questions to stimulate further thinking.

An extension is adding types of questions: factual, interpretive and evaluative. This understanding is very effective for development of dialogue with students:

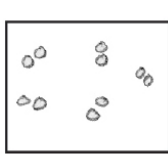
- **Factual** - A factual question has only one correct answer.
- **Interpretive** - An interpretive question has more than one answer that can be supported with evidence from the text. Interpretive questions keep discussions going and require the reader to refer back to the text.
- **Evaluative** - An evaluative question asks the reader to decide if s/he agree with the writer's ideas or point of view. The answer to an evaluative question depends on the reader's prior knowledge, experience, and opinions.



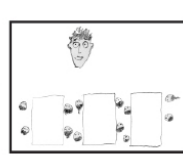
teacher models  
with a student



two students  
model



all students  
in pairs



sharing with the  
whole group

Powerful Questions  
examples on video.

Use the QR codes  
to the right for three  
different examples:

- Classroom with students;
- Professional Development;
- Students.

