

Urban Planning - Class Period 01

We begin our study of Urban Planning with The Right Question Protocol

It teaches two foundational skills:

- **How to formulate questions**
- **How to focus on decisions and use specific criteria for accountable decision-making**

Question Formulation Technique -- Begin with a provocative statement such as: "Planning for cities is not important in the 21st Century."

(If you have never done this technique, you might want to practice with an easy one so that the students know how to make good questions before they get to the important question development for the Urban Planning Unit.)

<p>Produce Your Questions (15-20 minutes) <i>Four essential rules for producing your own questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask as many questions as you can.• Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.• Write down every question exactly as it is stated.• Change any statement into a question.	<p>I put these four rules on two big posters and place them in the classroom for students to refer to as they are working.</p> <p>Students work in teams of 3 or 4 depending upon class size.</p>
<p>Improve Your Questions (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Categorize the questions as closed- or open-ended.• Name the advantages and disadvantages of each type of question.• Change 3 questions from one type to another	<p>This step helps students focus on open-ended questions. This is what we are looking for -- not "yes or no" or 1 word answer type of questions.</p> <p>They discuss the advantages and disadvantages as a class group.</p> <p>The last step shows them how easy it is to change the words around to make your perfectly valid questions into open-ended questions.</p>
<p>Prioritize the Questions (5 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choose your three most important questions.	<p>This process is done in the group. It teaches cooperative consensus-making.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why did you choose these three as the most important?	
<p>Sharing out</p> <p>Groups share the three most important questions of each group (10-15 minutes)</p>	<p>I typically write these on big pieces of paper - like butcher paper - so we can keep them in the classroom for the next few months.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our goal is to answer these questions over the next three months.	