

Divergent Questioning Models

1. Quantity Model

This type of question asks for the generation of a large number of responses and helps develop fluent thinking. Wait through student silences; silences often will be followed by more unusual answers. So allow for the second burst of ideas, or the third, or ... Examples:

What are all the titles you can think of for a poem?

How many ways can you measure a gallon?

What are all the meanings you can think of for the word "belt"?

What are all the ways in which people use music?

Draw as many pictures as you can using a circle as the basic shape.

Name as many round things as possible.

Write as many sentences as you can that contain words that begin with the letters M, G, H, S.

Observe a cat for five minutes and list all of its behaviors.

What are all the things we can do to help the pollution problem?

What can we do to make our community a better place to live?

The answer is 55 mph. What are all the questions you can think of to get that answer?

What are ways to communicate a quantity (ex. 23) without using any known number system?

2. Viewpoint Model

This type of question asks the student to look at characters, events, and objects from various points of view. The student steps outside of himself and is asked to react like someone or something else. Examples:

How would adults look from a baby's viewpoint?

How would a turkey feel about Thanksgiving dinner?

If Mona Lisa could talk, what would she say?

How would the story of Cinderella sound from the viewpoint of one of the ugly stepsisters?

What would "charge" mean to a consumer? a knight? an electrician? a teenager?

What would a member of the Peace Corps do to help South American progress?

Draw a picture of your school and schoolyard from the perspective of being in an airplane.

What would "run" mean to a politician? a movie proprietor? a businessman?

What would pollution of Earth mean from the viewpoint of an oil company? rosebush? an owl?

Write about a tree from the perspective of a nesting bird; an artist; a land developer.

What would a deaf person do at a concert?

How would broccoli, your mother, your stomach feel about junk food?

3. Involvement Model

This type of question asks the student to react personally to an unfamiliar situation or one that he/she had no part in creating.

Examples:

If you were a bird, what would you see? taste? feel?

List things that crumple in your hand?

How would you feel if you were an object attracted by a magnet?

Describe things that are made more beautiful by age.

List things to do when you retire.