

# THE QUESTION FORMULATION TECHNIQUE (QFT)



# RULES FOR PRODUCING QUESTIONS

- 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
- Number your questions as you go





# CATEGORIZING YOUR QUESTIONS

- **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.
- Review your list of questions and identify closed- and open-ended questions. Mark the open-ended questions with an O and the closed-ended questions with a C.

# CATEGORIZING YOUR QUESTIONS

- What are some advantages and disadvantages to closed-ended questions?
- What are some advantages and disadvantages to open-ended questions?
- Choose one closed-ended question, and change it into an open-ended question. Choose one open-ended question, and change it into a closed-ended question.
- How does this change the meaning of the questions?

# CATEGORIZING YOUR QUESTIONS

- Choose three questions from your list that you feel are the most important. Mark them with an X.
- Why did you choose these questions?
- Where on your list did these questions fall?

# NEXT STEPS

- How will you use your questions?
- Suggestion: examine bibliographic info:  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ncl2004001462/PP/>

# CATEGORIZING YOUR QUESTIONS

- What did you learn?
- How will you use it?



# MORE ON QFT

- Dan Rothstein and Luz Santana, *Make Just One Change*
  - Harvard University Press, 2011
- The Right Question Institute
  - <http://rightquestion.org>