"To Think is to Question"
By John Dewey

Productive Questions
- What are all the ways you can think of to get out of this room?
- List ways to use an upholstered chair other than as a piece of furniture.
- List all the ways you can think of to say "4".
- Imagine there are four states in North America. Draw the boundaries and name the states.
- List all the ways you might travel to school.
- List all the feelings you get when you see a rainbow.
- List different ways to "see" without using the eyes.
- List all the ways to use a clock other than as a timepiece.
- List ways to put Humpty Dumpty together again.
- List many different ways to dry a towel.
- Rename the 13 original colonies if the Pilgrims had landed at Los Angeles Rock.
- What are all the things that might happen if people could not talk, read, or write?

Reorganization
- What would happen if ____________ were true?
- Suppose _________________ (happened), what would be the consequence?
- What would happen if there were no _________________?

This type of question asks the student to describe the consequences of a strange or unusual condition. Through changing the facts, the questions ask that the world be viewed "as the world is not". The emphasis is on the restructuring of reality by taking into account an unusual situation.

What would happen if...
- The South won the Civil War?
- There was no poverty?
- There wasn’t a number system?
- All the circles were replaced by squares?
- There were no assembly lines?
- All the maps and globes disappeared (even on the internet)
- There was no sickness?
- You were one inch tall?
- Your eye balls were on your fingers?
- We didn’t have books?
- Light could not be reflected?
- The sky was void of stars?
- Everyone looked alike?
- There was no sunlight?

Personification Questions
Make a list of questions that:
- Thomas Jefferson’s quill pen might ask today’s president.
- A doctor’s stethoscope might ask a disease.
- The year 1812 might ask the year 2012.
- A tiger in a zoo might ask a tiger in the wild.
- A pair of worn-out shoes might ask the Queen of England.
- The planet Mars might ask the planet Neptune.
- Oil might ask water.
- A spotted owl might ask an unemployed logger.
- A picnic table might ask a library table.
- A video game might ask a math textbook.
- An obtuse triangle might ask a parallelogram.
- Wisdom might ask fear.

Forced Association
- How is gravitation like eating hamburgers?
- How is a contour map like flying a kite?
- How is an eclipse of the sun like a chocolate covered peanut?
- How is a constitutional amendment like a chemical reaction?
- How is your name like you?
- What animal is like a loaf of bread?
- How is the sun like a mother?
- How is poetry like the formation of a tornado?
- How is a comma like the abolition of slavery?
- How is a triangle like the force of a magnet?
- How is frost like friendship?
- How are mammals like computing a problem?
- How is a beaver chewing on a log like a typewriter?
- How can a fire extinguisher give us ideas for solving this problem?
- How is a salt shaker like a telescope?
- What ideas can we get from biology to work on the problem of lunchroom disturbances?
- What is deeper, a hole or loneliness?
- Which is quicker, a horse or gossip?
- What animal is like a parachute?

My Turn... Your Turn
This activity can be done with a class or group and no student can repeat the same answer.

The answer is stapler.
My turn: What keeps misbehaving papers in order?
Your turn:

The answer is jellybeans.
My turn: What tastes great when you eat two flavors at once?
Your turn:

The answer is trees.
My turn: What can cats climb up but can’t climb down?
Your turn:

The answer is pockets.
My turn: Where do I hide my hands when they are cold?
Your turn:

The answer is 21.
My turn: What is $10 + 10 + 1$?
Your turn: