

## **Inquiring Minds — a protocol for initiating inquiry**

**Premise:** Good questions generate powerful learning.

### **Protocol**

1. Create a question focus
  - Not a focus question
  - Provocative, but without formulator bias
2. Produce questions.  
*In groups of 3 or 4...*
  - Produce as many questions as you can — without discussion, judgments, or offering answers.
  - Record the questions accurately. Number the questions.
3. Analyze the questions.  
*In the same groups...*
  - Categorize the questions by whether they are “closed” (one-word answers) or “open” (more than one-word answers).
  - Change one “closed” question to “open” and one “open” one to “closed.”
4. Strategize how to use the questions.  
*In the same groups...*
  - Determine which three questions in your list are most important.
  - Consider how you will/could follow up on these questions — the investigations or actions you might pursue as individuals or as a group.
5. Reflect on the process.  
*In the same groups...*
  - What did you find interesting or useful about the process?
  - What challenges did you encounter?
  - What did you learn?
  - How might you use this process?

### **The Right Question Institute (RQI): [rightquestion.org](http://rightquestion.org)**

“What is one essential skill that can facilitate all learning?  
What can we do in order to learn more, produce new  
ideas and generate creative solutions?  
We should ask questions.”

#### **Five Primary Initiatives**

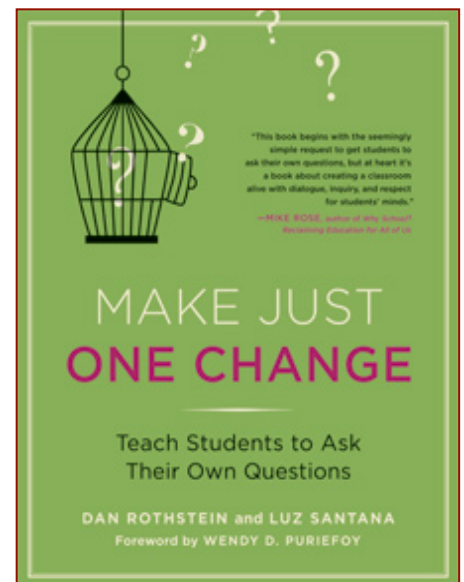
- \* Education
  - \* Healthcare & Mental Health
  - \* Parent & Family Involvement
  - \* Voter Engagement
  - \* Microdemocracy

#### **Stages of Inquiry**

- \* Connect
- \* Wonder
- \* Investigate
- \* Construct
- \* Express
- \* Reflect

Source:

Model of Inquiry,  
Barbara Stripling  
<http://goo.gl/wgBxn>



A presentation about this protocol is available at <http://goo.gl/sbhyg>.