**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**

“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.