

# Question Focus Criteria and Steps for Developing

**Question Focus Criteria**

FOCUS	NOT A QUESTION	PROVOKES	NOT TEACHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brief and simply stated</li><li>• Sharply focused</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the form of a statement, visual, or audio</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provokes and stimulates new lines of thinking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not reveal teacher preferences or bias</li></ul>

## Steps for Designing a Question Focus (QFocus)

1. Define the purpose
  - What do you want to accomplish by using the QFocus?
  - Keep your teaching goals and learning outcomes in mind.
    - Generate interest
    - Stimulate new thinking
    - Deepen comprehension
    - Gather information about student understanding
2. Generate possible ideas
  - List several ideas for possible QFocus.
  - Think about several ways to present the same idea.
    - List statements, visual and other strategies
    - Look for simple ideas
    - Keep statements brief and as simple as possible
3. Identify pros and cons for each idea
  - Keep in mind the criteria when identifying pros and cons:
    - Has a clear focus
    - Is **not** a question
    - Provokes and stimulates new line of thinking
    - Does not show teacher preference or bias
4. Choose one QFocus idea and assess against the four criteria
  - Choose one of the ideas from your list that best meets your purpose and see if it meets the four criteria listed in Step 3.
5. Imagine questions students may come up with
  - The purpose of this step is to try to assess the potential of the focus in helping students produce questions and the direction the questions might go.
  - You will **not** be using these questions.