**The QFT – Question Formulation Technique**

Small Group Activity

**Students Part**

1. **Producing questions wrt the QFocus:** divergent thinking, any and all Qs w/o judgement or discussion

(5 – 15 minutes; at least)

* A question-recorder is needed in the small group
* Record the exact question – grammar and all as asked
* No discussion during this phase – questions only
* Ask any question that comes to mind

1. **Improving the questions (Qs):**

(10 minutes; at least)

* Categorizing Qs as closed-ended (Qs with yes/no or one/few-word-answers) & open-ended (Qs that require explanation)
* Change closed-ended questions into open-ended questions
* Analyze the advantages & disadvantages of the questions (convergent thinking).
* Relate the Q categories to the purpose of the project/activity

*Note: the construction & phrasing of a question shapes the kind of information you can expect to receive.*

1. **Prioritize your questions**

(At least 10 minutes)

A few of many possible options for prioritizing questions:

* Chose the 3 most important Qs & then explain why you chose these 3.
* Chose the 3 Qs that interest you the most & then explain why you chose these 3.
* Chose the 3 Qs that will help you best design your solution to the project & then explain why you chose these 3.
* Chose the 3 Qs that move you toward your purpose & then explain why you chose these 3.
* Chose a single ‘priority’ Q & then explain why you chose this one.

*This step summarizes your work in step 1 and 2.*

1. **Next steps:** using the questions for action and follow-on research/inquiry

(1 – 2 weeks of research and project report writing)

A few of many possible options for prioritizing questions:

* Report writing
* Investigations
* Support for instruction

1. **Reflection:** metacognition and ‘questioning the questions’

(10 – 15 minutes)

Reflection examples:

* What did you learn?
* Whys is learning to ask your own questions important for learning?
* What did you learn about on the QFocus topic of this particular project?
* How did you learn?