

**The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) for SoTL Research**

Prepared by: Keith Power, Educational Developer, CITL

**Description**: The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) was created by the Right Question Institute ([rightquestion.org](https://rightquestion.org/)). This adapted tool provides a process to help you formulate questions to support and guide your Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research.

**Procedure**: Use the steps and instructions below to help you generate your research questions.

***Step 1.*** Identify and write down up to three general research topics (e.g., accessibility, assessment, experiential learning) you might consider for your research project. Consider what you want to better understand about your teaching practices or how students learn. List and briefly describe your general topics below.

Topic 1:

Topic 2:

Topic 3:

***Step 2.*** Choose one topic from your list that you are most interested in. This topic will become your focus for generating possible research questions.

***Step 3.*** Follow the rules and steps below to generate possible research questions and add them to the table provided.

*Rules for producing questions*

* Ask as many questions as you can about your research topic
* Do not stop to answer, analyze, or judge questions
* Write down every question exactly as it comes to mind
* Change any statements into questions
* Number the questions as you produce them

*Step 3.1*. Use the table below to record your possible research questions in the “Questions” column.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q#** | **Questions** | **O/C** | **Priority** |
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*Step 3.2.*In the column titled “O/C,” label your closed-ended questions with a “C” and your open-ended questions with an “O.”

*Step 3.3*. Change your open-ended questions to closed-ended questions and vice versa. Add these new questions to your list while also keeping your original questions.

*Step 3.4*.Choose three priority questions from your list that you are most interested in using to guide your research project. Consider the research topic you identified earlierwhen choosing your priority questions. Once you have identified three questions, you can place a mark in the “Priority” column next to the questions you chose.

***Step 4***. From your priority questions, select one or two questions that you are most excited about answering. Rework these questions so that you feel they are appropriate questions to guide your research and list the final versions below. These questions will guide the development of your research project and should be as precise as possible.

**Final Research Questions**

RQ1:

RQ2: