

# 12 Ways to Ask Effective Questions

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ farm specializes in growing crops.

- ✓ 1. Arable
2. Commercial
3. Intensive
4. Pastoral

Option	Percentage
Arable	40%
Commercial	23%
Intensive	17%
Pastoral	20%

The key to keeping participants engaged and involved is asking the right questions. Audience response technology can provide the tools for interactive presentations, but utilizing the system to its full potential takes more than “yes” and “no” responses.

Asking meaningful questions that permit attendees to employ critical thinking or reveal interesting results will not only keep audiences awake, but will also encourage interaction, collaboration and communication. Seeing instant feedback will allow speakers to understand and address the needs of audiences in real-time.

Which of the following is NOT a characteristic field technique of ethnography?

1. Participant observation
2. Interview schedule
3. Genealogical method
4. Problem-instigating research
5. All of the above techniques are characteristic of ethnography.

Option	Percentage
Participant observation	30%
Interview schedule	10%
Genealogical method	47%
Problem-instigating research	3%
All of the above	10%

## RECALL QUESTIONS

Ask participants to recall facts or concepts.

- Used for assessing participant understanding of presented material.
- Conduct pre- and post-testing to gauge presentation effectiveness.
- Ensure participants have base understanding before moving on to next topic.

DYLAN'S PARENTS HAD A PARTY FOR HIS FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THEY INVITED BOTH SETS OF GRANDPARENTS, AND DYLAN'S FATHER'S BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY. THIS IS CALLED A GATHERING OF:

1. a consanguine family
2. a conjugal family
3. an egalitarian family
4. a patriarchal family

Option	Percentage
1	23%
2	13%
3	23%
4	40%

## CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Asks participants to not only recall definitions but understand concepts associated with definitions.

- Base incorrect answers on common misconceptions to spark rich discussion.
- Learn what participants do NOT understand about concepts or content.
- Responses that are split among answer choices allow for further conversation.
- Promotes long-term understanding versus short-term memorization.
- “Which of the following is NOT an example or characteristic of concept X?”
- “Which of the following statements best explains the concepts of X?”

Before administering oxygen therapy at 60% face mask, the nurse would:

1. Review the patient's history for indications of COPD
2. Observe the patient's respiratory pattern
3. Draw ABGs
4. Auscultate bilateral breath sounds.

Option	Percentage
1	30%
2	13%
3	27%
4	30%

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Asks participants to apply knowledge and understanding of concepts to particular situation or context.

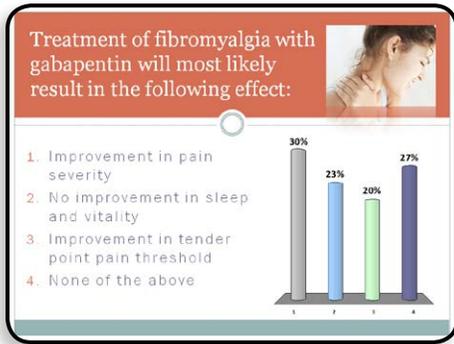
- Predict ways participants will misapply a concept and integrate into answer choices.
- If significant number answer incorrectly, ask for an explanation of reasoning.
- Particularly useful when discussing case studies, allow for argument of choices.
- “What would your response to a situation be if you had the role of X?”

## PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

Asks participants to apply knowledge of a procedure or technique to a problem or situation.

- Focus on the outcome of the procedure or the procedure itself.
- Reveal parts of the procedure that participants do not understand.
- “In this scenario, what step or steps would you take next?”

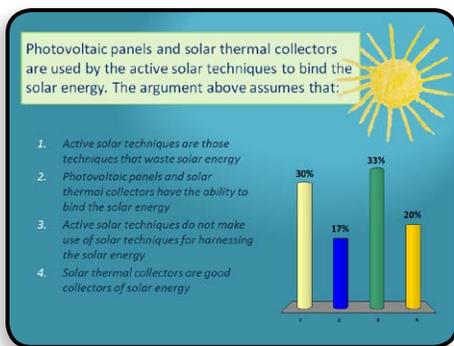
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## PREDICTION QUESTIONS

Asks participants to predict the result of an experiment or procedure.

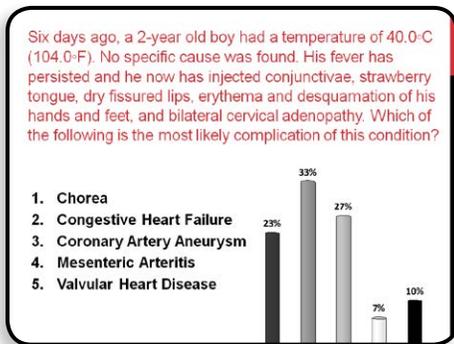
- Committing to a prediction beforehand allows participants to be invested in answers.
- The larger the percentage of error, the more the participants will want to hear the explanation.
- Creates a “time for telling” in which participants are ready and interested to learn.
- Helps participants make sense of a concept, allows speakers to see if the concept is understood.
- “How will adding X affect the outcome of the situation?”, “What will happen if we add X?”



## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

Asks participants to analyze relationships among multiple concepts or make evaluations based on particular criteria.

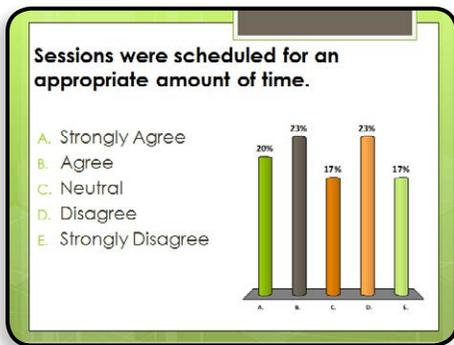
- Think critically about complex questions and suggested answer choices.
- Follow-up results with discussion regarding reasoning behind answer choices.
- Re-vote after discussion has taken place to see if answers have changed.
- Construct follow-up questions on-the-fly, focus on why answers were chosen.



## ONE-BEST ANSWER QUESTIONS

Asks participants to answer multiple-choice questions that do not have a single correct answer. Calls for critical thinking versus recalling facts.

- Think critically about the best answer among several defensible ones.
- Often applied in medical scenarios, asking for the best treatment of a patient.
- Allows for discussion of choices among participants, engaging versus assessing.
- Ask a question, allow participants to suggest their own answers and vote for the best one.



## PRESENTATION ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Ask participants to evaluate presentations, sessions or events. Provides valuable feedback, especially when planning for future events.

- Offer multiple levels of quality or satisfaction in several categories.
- Create questions based on pre-determined, pertinent objectives.
- Keep surveys short and sweet, provide a mid-point for ranking.
- Balance different question types within survey, define necessary terms.

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How would you improve next year's event?

EAST COAST	
MORE SESSIONS	
MORE TRAINING	
Matching Keywords: 0	
Keywords: NA	

- ← **OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS**  
Ask participants to answer open-ended, free response questions. For use with ResponseWare and NXT, QT or QT2 devices.
- Elicit multiple responses, for use if unsure how participants will respond.
  - For use if there is a large amount of possible responses, supports brainstorming.

What is your personal view of workers?

1. People are generally lazy, dislike work, need direction and only work hard when pushed to perform well.
2. People are not intrinsically lazy, and are willing to work hard when the right conditions prevail.

- ← **PERSPECTIVE QUESTIONS**  
Ask participants questions designed to surface perspectives versus assess knowledge of subject. Help to get to know audiences and base direction of presentation on results.
- Gather useful information about audiences, tailor presentation to audience answers.
  - Learn where audience members stand on sensitive topics, do not rely on assumptions.
  - Anonymous polling works best with perspective questions, collect honest answers.
  - Collect participant demographic information, opinions and personal experiences.
  - Make topics relatable, opens up discussions when similar experiences are shared.

In the previously discussed scenario, there was "no reasonable" justification for kettling.

1. True, with high confidence
2. True, with low confidence
3. False, with low confidence
4. False, with high confidence

- ← **CONFIDENCE LEVEL QUESTIONS**  
Ask participants to clarify level of confidence along with answer choices.
- Including confidence level will assess participant knowledge and discern participants "guessing."
  - Ask participants to assess confidence when completing a task, "How confident would you be X?"
  - Ask participants confidence level at beginning to identify needs or material that needs covered.

HOW IS YOUR DIVISION ADOPTING A COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING PLAN?

- A. The plan has already been implemented.
- B. Everyone is on board, we are just working through the final details.
- C. Getting everyone to vote on a final plan.
- D. In the beginning stages of developing a plan.
- E. Have not begun developing a plan.

- ← **MONITORING QUESTIONS**  
Asks participants to gauge progress so speakers can monitor effectiveness of presentation or training.
- Create a benchmark for speakers to compare participant progress on.
  - See what methods are working or strategies are being implemented.

Definitions and Examples Taken from the Following Sources:  
 (2009). 2009 Health care for America survey. Retrieved from [http://www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/survey/index\\_survey.cfm](http://www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/survey/index_survey.cfm)  
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