

Huckleberry Finn
Socratic Seminar

Question Formulation
Technique

Objective

Today all students will develop questions based on a focus topics related to *Huckleberry Finn*. They will choose priority questions as discussion questions for the Socratic Seminar.

Question Formulation Technique (QFT)

Step 1: Produce questions based on QFocus

Step 2: Categorize questions

Step 3: Prioritize questions

Step 4: Questions Socratic Seminar

Step 5: Reflection

Before we get started, let's go over the rules

Group Ground Rules:

Rules for Producing Questions

1. Ask as many questions as you can
2. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions
3. Write down every question exactly as it is stated
4. Change any statement into a question

Step 1: Produce Questions

Based on focus statements



1. Select a Scribe
2. Follow the Ground Rules of Producing Questions
3. Share questions slowly to allow the scribe to capture questions accurately

Question Focus Statements

1. Society's laws supercede one's personal moral and ethical values.
2. Freedom has different meanings to different people.
3. In order to be a civilized and productive member of society, one must follow and obey the rules and codes of society.
4. Only formal education leads to true knowledge, maturity and responsibility.

Step 2: Categorizing Questions

Identify the level of your questions
(write C for close-ended and O for open-ended)

Closed-ended Questions can be answered with a “yes’ or “no” or with a one-word answer.

Open-ended Questions require more explanation.

Change any close-ended questions to open-ended and look at some of your questions for improvement.

Step 3: Prioritizing Questions

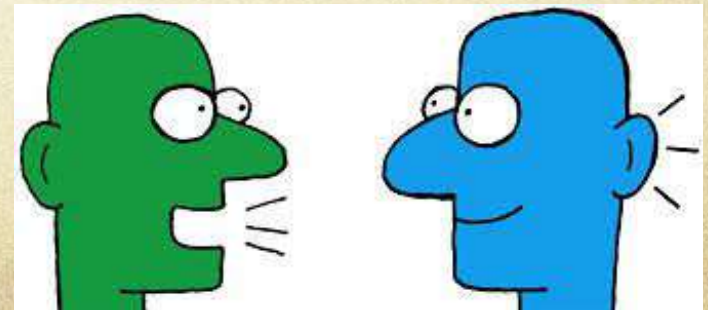
Choose the two - three most important questions from your list and write them on the backside of your butcher paper. Please leave some space after each question.

Keep these ideas in mind when selecting questions:

- Use the focus statement.
- The question will require critical thinking and possibly textual support for the Socratic.

Step 4 - Choose Questions

- Walk around the room and choose no more than (3) questions that you believe would make good Socratic Questions
- Place a check next to these 3 questions



Period 3

1. Are family ties more important than doing what is right?
- 2. Do you believe life experience can provide you with the same maturity and responsibility as education?**
- 3. What is acceptable to sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom?**
4. Does Huck breaking rules of Miss Watson indicate that he does not want to be civilized?
- 5. Why do we as a society look up to people who don't follow the rules of society?**
- 6. How does the motive of freedom affect the characters' actions throughout the book?**
7. Would Jim be considered immature and irresponsible because he does not have a formal education?

Period 4

- 1. Is formal education the only way to get true knowledge, maturity and responsibility? Why or why not?**
2. Is freedom having no laws, or having laws and experiencing consequences of breaking them?
- 3. What does it mean to be civilized and productive in the eyes of society?**
- 4. Is it right to restrict someone's freedom if it is for his/her own good?**
- 5. How does Huck Finn's relationship with Jim change his opinions on human nature throughout the story?**
6. Is freedom truly worthwhile without a subsequent purpose?
(aimless freedom)
7. Can rebellious citizens still be productive members of society? Why or why not?

Period 5

- 1. Does human nature mold societal laws or do societal laws mold human nature?**
- 2. According to Mark Twain, what is the cost of freedom?**
- 3. How does Huck Finn show that even though society's codes might influence people, they're not always right?**
- 4. How does Jim display maturity and responsibility in the novel? How is it more or less prevalent than those who do have a formal education?**
- 5. What are some examples in the book where Huck personal values clash with those of society?**
- 6. How does the raft vs. shore represent freedom to Huck and Jim?**

Socratic Questions

Here are the two questions that I am giving you:

1. How does Mark Twain use satire to enhance his message in the novel? Choose a two-three events and discuss what he is revealing about the inadequacies of society.
2. Is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - a racist novel? Base your claim on your reading of the novel and what we discussed watching The Culture Shock video.

