

Introduction to Questions in Style

Use this handout to help you identify and generate high-quality responses to the different styles of questions that you encounter in class.

MASTERY QUESTIONS

ask you to remember, calculate, or describe things accurately.

Mastery questions might ask you to

- Remember facts, formulas, or definitions
- Observe and describe
- Locate, organize, or sequence
- Perform procedures/calculations
- List or summarize key points
- Retell or restate

Things to think about when answering...

- ✓ Did you search your memory for relevant information?
- ✓ Is your answer accurate? Complete?
- ✓ Did you include the key points and important details?

INTERPERSONAL QUESTIONS

invite you to relate personally to the content and to others.

Interpersonal questions might ask you to

- Share feelings, reactions, and opinions
- Connect the content to your personal life and experiences
- Assist or advise other people
- Put yourself in someone else's shoes
- Make decisions based on personal values

Things to think about when answering...

- ✓ Does your response reflect your personal feelings, opinions, and beliefs?
- ✓ Did you consider other people's viewpoints as well as your own?
- ✓ Did you make connections between the content and your personal experiences?

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

challenge you to analyze, explain, and give evidence/examples.

Understanding questions might ask you to

- Explain why
- Compare and contrast
- Give reasons, evidence, and examples
- Analyze, interpret, evaluate, or conclude
- Classify, categorize, or make connections

Things to think about when answering...

- ✓ Can you support your response with evidence, reasons, or examples?
- ✓ Is your reasoning clear and logical?
- ✓ Can you explain why?

SELF-EXPRESSIVE QUESTIONS

encourage you to speculate, generate and explore possibilities, and think creatively.

Self-Expressive questions might ask you to

- Speculate, hypothesize, or predict (What if __? What might __?)
- Generate and explore alternatives
- Represent something visually or symbolically
- Create something original—for example, a slogan, simile, strategy, or solution

Things to think about when answering...

- ✓ Is your response creative or original?
- ✓ Did you consider all possibilities?
- ✓ Did you use what you know to make an educated guess or prediction?

SOURCE: Adapted from *Questioning Styles and Strategies: How to Use Questions to Engage and Motivate Different Styles of Learners* by Silver Strong & Associates, 2007, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ: Thoughtful Education Press. © 2007 by Thoughtful Education Press. Adapted with permission.

