Types of Questions

**Memory questions:** these relate to recall of facts, names of things, usually one right answer. Example: What famous architect designed this building?

**Divergent/ Open-ended questions:** encourage multiple answers. These questions may demand imaginative thinking and exploration of all facets of an issue.

Example: Where do you see circles here in the building?

**Convergent questions:** seeks the most appropriate answer or best answer. Example: When you look up, what does this stairwell area remind you of?

**Inference questions:** get the group to generalize or reason beyond the information you have given; to explore possible conclusions and implications..

Example: So if the lake is below us here, what is holding the building up?

**Application questions:** get the group to see how certain information applies in different situations. Example: Does your school building have any features that you might see in Frank Lloyd Wright buildings?

**Problem-solving questions:** get the group to think of solutions to real-world problems and issues. Example: What material would you use in this space to make the room feel more expansive and open?

**Cause-and-effect questions:** get the group to think about relationships that explain the occurrence of different events and objects. Example: Why do you think Frank Lloyd Wright used triangles at his home in the desert?

**Judgmental questions:** stimulate one to evaluate and form an opinion, value, or belief that is personal and perhaps unique. Example: Do you think the designer did a good job in creating this space for meetings?

**Compare/Contrast questions:** ask the visitor to compare/contrast based on observation. These questions can be "low-risk" for students who do not have a lot of background knowledge on the topic, and can be the entry point for bigger ideas.

Example: What do Monona Terrace and the State Capitol have in common? What is different?

**Dialogic questions:** ask the visitor to draw upon their own lived experience to answer the question. There are no wrong answers.

Example: What is your favorite room- in your home or another location- that you enjoy hanging out? What are the features of that room that make it so comfortable?

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**When asking questions...**

* Ask one question at a time.
* Practice "wait-time"- be silent and wait for a response to your questions. The longer you wait, the better the answer will be.
* Try to draw contributions from every student in the group. Avoid calling on the same person with his/her hand up for every question.
* No answer is stupid. Acknowledge everyone's contribution. Redirect the conversation if you can't build a discussion based on a response.