

# WELCOME

**Creating a Vision  
for  
Public Education**

**Stakeholder Kick-off  
Meeting**

**August 27, 2014  
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**







# Process Expectations

- **Come on Time and Choose to be Present**
- **Room Enough for Everyone in the Room**
- **Be Open to the Journey and not Wedded to an Outcome**
- **Meetings Structured, Planned and Tools Used to Help Us Build Community and Create Our Vision Together**

# THE QUESTION FORMULATION TECHNIQUE™



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# Why Use

## The Question Formulation Technique

“It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers.”

--James Thurber, writer

- This is a process to help us figure out the questions we want to explore and possibly get answered; to figure out what we need to know in order to create a Vision for Public Education across the Orange County Schools community;
- It is a process to focus the work of the Stakeholder Group and your individual contributions to this effort as members of this group;
- The QFT can also help us learn where we need to build bridges, open doors, post road signs, and develop priorities around our efforts.

# COMPONENTS OF

## The Question Formulation Technique

1. The Question Focus (Qfocus)
2. The Rules for Producing Questions
3. Producing Questions
4. Categorizing and Improving Questions
5. Prioritizing and Sharing Questions
6. Next Steps for Using Your Shared Questions
7. Reflection on the QFT Process

# RULES FOR PRODUCING QUESTIONS

- Ask as many questions as you can  
(make sure everyone has a turn)
- Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer the questions
- Write down every question exactly as it is stated
- Change any statement into a question

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**What might be difficult about following these rules?**



# Volunteer Scribe from Each Table?

- Before we take a short break, each group needs to select one person to act as a scribe to record the questions as you all brainstorm them.
- Please help the scribe write down your question exactly as it is stated
- If you start to make a statement, change your statement to a question.

Let's  
Take  
a  
Break



# PRODUCING THE QUESTIONS

## **QFocus:**

### **Creating Our Vision for Public Education in the Orange County Schools Community**

1. Follow the Rules for Producing Questions.
  - Take turns asking questions
  - Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer the questions
  - Write down every question exactly as it is stated
  - Change any statement into a question
2. Number your questions.

# IMPROVING THE QUESTIONS

You might have these two kinds of questions in your list:

- **Closed-ended questions** – they can be answered with “yes” or “no” or with one word.
- **Open-ended questions** – they require an explanation and cannot be answered with “yes” or “no” or with one word.

# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS



Identify closed and open-ended questions.

1. Mark the closed ended questions with a **C** and the open-ended questions with an **O**.

# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS

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2. Name advantages of asking **closed-ended** questions.

# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS

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2. Name disadvantages of asking **closed-ended** questions.

# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS



2. Name advantages of asking **open-ended** questions.



# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS

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2. Name disadvantages of asking **open-ended** questions.

# IMPROVE YOUR QUESTIONS



3. Review your list of questions and change one closed-ended question into an open-ended one.

Then, change one open-ended question into a closed-ended one.

# PRIORITIZE YOUR QUESTIONS

- As a group, choose the three most important questions from your list
- Keep in mind the Qfocus:  
**Creating Our Vision for Public Education in the Orange County Schools Community**
- Mark each priority question with an “X”

# SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS

Let's share:

- Questions you changed from closed to open-ended and from open-ended to closed. Read each question as originally written and how it was changed,
- Priority questions,
- Your group's rationale for prioritizing that question

# NEXT STEPS



**We will use these questions to guide this process as we move forward.**

# REFLECTION

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- 1. What did we learn from this exercise?**

# REFLECTION

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**2. Moving forward, how might the Stakeholder Group use what you have learned from this process?**

- Additional materials to help you teach the QFT are available at [www.rightquestion.org](http://www.rightquestion.org).
- For a comprehensive description of how to use the Question Formulation Technique™ in the classroom please see *Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions*, 2011 Harvard Education Press.  
<http://www.hepg.org/hep/book/144/MakeJustOneChange>
- We would appreciate any insights, suggestions or feedback about this presentation.

**Thank you!**



# Meeting Wrap-up:

**What Went Well?**

**What Could We  
Improve?**

# Next Meeting:

- 1. Before the Next Meeting:  
Steering Committee Meets  
Reflect on Today's Meeting**
- 2. Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, September 10, 2014  
11:00 to 1:30 p.m.  
Auditorium – Multipurpose Room  
C.W. Stanford Middle School  
Orange High School Road**
- 3. If you will be unable to attend, please call:  
Lori Rountree at the OCS Administrative  
Offices: 919-732-8126 ext-10030 or email:  
Lori.Rountree@orange.k12.nc.us**