

Asking Smart Questions

ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

DESCRIPTION Analysis questions are used to take an idea, process, or situation apart so that the component parts can be separately examined. They are the opposite of synthesis questions.

WORDING EXAMPLES

What were the main contributing factors that led to the Civil War?

Do you understand the relationship between your problems with the substitute and the need for you to make a written list of the dos and don'ts of classroom behavior?

PURPOSES

- ▶ **to discover the nature or function of, or the relationships between, various parts of a whole.**
- ▶ **to assess the value or usefulness of solving a problem.**

ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

- ▶ tend to be penetrating questions.
- ▶ require specifics in the answer.
- ▶ often contain words such as *component parts*, *contributing factors*, *impact on*, and *relationship between*.

🐞 BUGS and ↪ TROUBLE SHOOTING

🐞 Over-generalizing.

↪ Don't neglect to analyze the current situation simply because a given solution has worked in the past.

🐞 Not considering all factors.

↪ Slow down and look at the situation from as many angles as possible.

🐞 Misunderstanding or misusing the reasoning process.

↪ Focus on one aspect of the situation at a time.