

# International Ask a Question Day

## The Question-Centered Classroom

The goal is to increase the quantity and quality of questions that young people ask so they develop into life-long learners, more productive and happier adults, and better citizens.

As a teacher, you can use this list of questions as the basis for assignments and discussions in the classroom. It's probably best to use only one or a few at a time. Of course, select questions that are age and grade appropriate and add any that you think would be helpful to your students. School counselors can also use these questions depending on the goals of their conversations with students and parents.

- Why do you think questions are important? What are they good for?
- Tell a story about a time that a question made a big difference to you.
  - This could be a question someone asked you or one you asked yourself.
- What words, experiences, or memories come to mind when you think about questions?
- What's the best question you've ever heard? How come?
- Who is the best question asker you ever met personally? Why do you say this? What is it like to be with this person?
- What are some questions you've asked an adult that surprised them or got them upset or that they didn't want to answer?
- Think of a time when you wanted to ask a question—but you didn't ask it.
  - What was that question?
  - Why didn't you ask it?
  - What do you imagine would have happened if you had?
- Have you ever had a negative experience from asking a question? What decision did you make about asking questions after that? How has this affected your life?
- What keeps you from asking questions when you want to? Can you think of a time that happened?
- What would it take for you to become more courageous about asking questions?
- What kinds of questions do you wish your (parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers) would ask you? What would you like to ask them? What has stopped you? What would it take for you to do this?

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