

How do you write good questions?

***This is the criteria for how your questions will be scored.**

- BEFORE each question, **write a sentence** that establishes **context** (What part(s) of the text are you talking about? Or what background information should be considered as your audience thinks about and answers your question?). This first sentence might also be an **integrated quote with context for the quote** (the speaker, setting and situation) **or** reference several scenes from multiple parts of the text.
- Questions should be based on the **IR--1** handout you have been given. You may change the sentence structure and language of the sentence frames. Closely related questions should be combined into ONE. Good questions ...
 - are about ambiguous parts of the text instead of what is already obvious
 - are about diverse topics
 - are not just about plot and character, but about symbols, stylistic devices, the structure of the text, etc.
 - require making inferences & connections between multiple parts of the text.
 - reflect a close reading of the text
 - use academic language
- Avoid questions that are factual (eg. you can look up the answer in the text), based on predictions (what do you think is going to happen next ...), are overly vague or could apply to any text. Examples: How does the imagery convey theme? How does a certain character change?

1984 Sample Questions with Context

<p>1. <u>Context:</u> Winston doesn't know the whereabouts of his mother, but he assumes she has died.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> What is the significance of his dreams of her drowning? Why drowning as opposed to another fate?</p>	<p>2. <u>Context:</u> O'Brien gives Winston a book he claims was written by the Brotherhood when really he is working with the Thought Police who have been observing Winston and Julia in the room above the shop for some time.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> Why does O'Brien give the book to Winston in the first place and why do the Thought Police wait so long to arrest him and Julia?</p>
<p>3. <u>Context:</u> When Winston tells O'Brien him and Julia have come to his home because they believe the Brotherhood exists and they are willing to do anything to defeat the party, O'Brien questions them and "turn[s] himself a little in his chair so that he [is] facing Winston" and "almost ignore[s] Julia, seeming to take it for granted that Winston could speak for her" (142).</p> <p><u>Question:</u> What does O'Brien's behavior suggest about his view of women and is this reflective of a larger pattern in Oceania?</p>	<p>4. <u>Context:</u> In the book, there is a repetition of rhymes from the past that keep arising.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> Why are people able to remember the rhymes but not other things like the fact that just a few years ago, Oceania was at war with a completely different country? What is the significance of this?</p>