

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?

Fahrenheit 451 Sample Questions with Context

<p>1. Context: One suicide and one near-suicide occur in this book. One woman, who shuns books but loves TV and driving fast in her car, anesthetizes herself. Another woman, who cherishes her books, sets herself on fire with them instead of leaving when the firemen show up to torch her house (37).</p> <p>Question: Why would two people who seem to be so different from each other try to take their own lives? Why does suicide happen so frequently in Montag's society?</p>	<p>2. Context: Captain Beatty quotes history, scripture, poetry, philosophy. He is obviously a well-read man.</p> <p>Question: Why hasn't he been punished? And why does he view the books he's read with such contempt?</p>
<p>3. Context: Beatty tells Montag that firemen are "custodians of peace of mind" and that they stand against "those who want to make everyone unhappy with conflicting theory and thought" (56).</p> <p>Question: How well are the firemen accomplishing these objectives? Are conflicting ideas the only source of unhappiness in their society? Can conflicting ideas exist even without books that have been destroyed and outlawed?</p>	<p>4. Context: After Montag escapes the Mechanical Hound, he meets a group of travelers outside the city who have memorized various works of literature. Soon after, when the city is completely destroyed by jet bombers, their leader, Granger says to Montag, "We're going to go build a mirror factory first and put out nothing but mirrors for the next year and take a long time to look at them?" (157).</p> <p>Question: Why would "mirrors" be important in this new society? In what ways are mirrors a symbol in the text and what do they represent?</p>