

Steps to Writing Open-Ended Questions:

- 1) Examine your subject or topic.
 - A. Decide on concepts that could be assessed using open-ended questions.
 - B. Make a list of three or four ideas.
 - C. Plan the purpose and decide what part of your lesson would be best for using open-ended questions.

- 2) Decide what you want students to do.
 - A. Consider many different possibilities to determine the best format to use. (Do you want students to compare, contrast, to describe, to evaluate, to predict, etc.?)
 - B. Decide if there is a match between the content and the expectations you have for students.

- 3) Use the RAMPS procedure for constructing the prompt.
 - A. Write a scenario for the prompt. (a description of the situation).
 1. What is the student's role? (R)
 2. Is there a particular audience? (A)
 3. What is the context (setting) for the problem? (S)Other considerations (optional):
 4. What is the problem?
 5. What assumptions (if any) should be included?
 - B. Write the expectations related to students responding to the question.
 1. Decide the mode (or form) that students are to use (i.e. a letter, a plan, a summary, explanation, etc.) (M)
 2. Decide the purpose (i.e. to evaluate, compare, explain, predict, etc.) (P)
Other considerations.
 3. Make sure expectations are specific.
 4. Include any specific content/concepts you want the student to explain.
 5. Decide if students should include representations such as charts, diagrams, or pictures with their explanations.
 6. Develop a scoring guide.