

AD QUESTIONS REFLECT INERT MINDS

Most students ask virtually none of these thought-stimulating types of questions. Most tend to stick to dead questions such as, "Is this going to be on the test?" This sort of question usually applies the desire not to think at all.

We must continually remind ourselves that thinking begins within content only when questions are generated. No questions (asked) no understanding (achieved). Superficial questions equal superficial understanding; unclear questions equal unclear understanding. If in class in silence, your mind probably will be silent as well. When the case, you either will ask no questions or your questions will be superficial, ill-formed, and self-serving. You should strive for a state of mind in which, even when you are outwardly quiet, you are actively asking questions. You should formulate questions that will lead to productive learning.

If you want to learn deeply and independently, you should always study so that what you do stimulates your thinking with questions that lead to further questions.

yourself

AD in one of your textbooks specifically to generate questions. Only when you questions as you read are you reading critically. After reading each section, or this, make a list of all the questions you have about what you are reading. Then questions—either by looking in the textbook or by raising them in class.

STONING ABILITY

in your intellectual development, to what extent would you call yourself a questioner? That is, how would you rate the overall quality of the questions (those that you share with others and those you keep to yourself)? Do you think you would say is a deep questioner? If so, what makes you think this person

ATEGORIES OF QUESTIONS

go further in our discussion about how to question deeply, we introduce a useful way of categorizing questions. This way of classifying questions provides a "jumpstart" in discovering the kind of reason-

- The three categories of questions are:
- 1. Questions of fact.** Questions with one right answer (Factual questions fall into this category.)
 - What is the boiling point of lead?
 - What is the size of this room?
 - What is the differential of this equation?
 - How does the hard drive on a computer operate?
 - 2. Questions of preference.** Questions with as many answers as there are different human preferences (a category in which mere subjective opinion rules). These questions ask you to express a preference.
 - Which would you prefer, a vacation in the mountains or one at the seashore?
 - How do you like to wear your hair?

EXHIBIT 6.1 In approaching a question, it is useful to figure out what type it is. Is it a question with one definitive answer? Is it a question that calls for a subjective choice? Or does the question require you to consider competing answers?

