

Notes 3 – Closed-Ended and Open-Ended Questions



What's the difference?

Closed-Ended Questions

- Useful for extracting particular information.
- Often a yes/no answer.
- Can be a specific answer, but not detailed.



1. What is your favorite M&M color?

- Green
- Red
- Brown
- Yellow
- Orange
- Blue

Closed-Ended Questions

- Helpful to get interviewee (interview subject) talking. ("yes" answers are good to build their confidence)



Examples

- Did you learn something from the Social Studies lesson yesterday? (requires only a yes/no answer)
- What was the strategy used to analyze and review the various documents? (specific answer - SOAPSTone)
- Where were similar civil rights issues evident in 2011? (specific answer - Sussex County, DE)

Open-Ended Questions

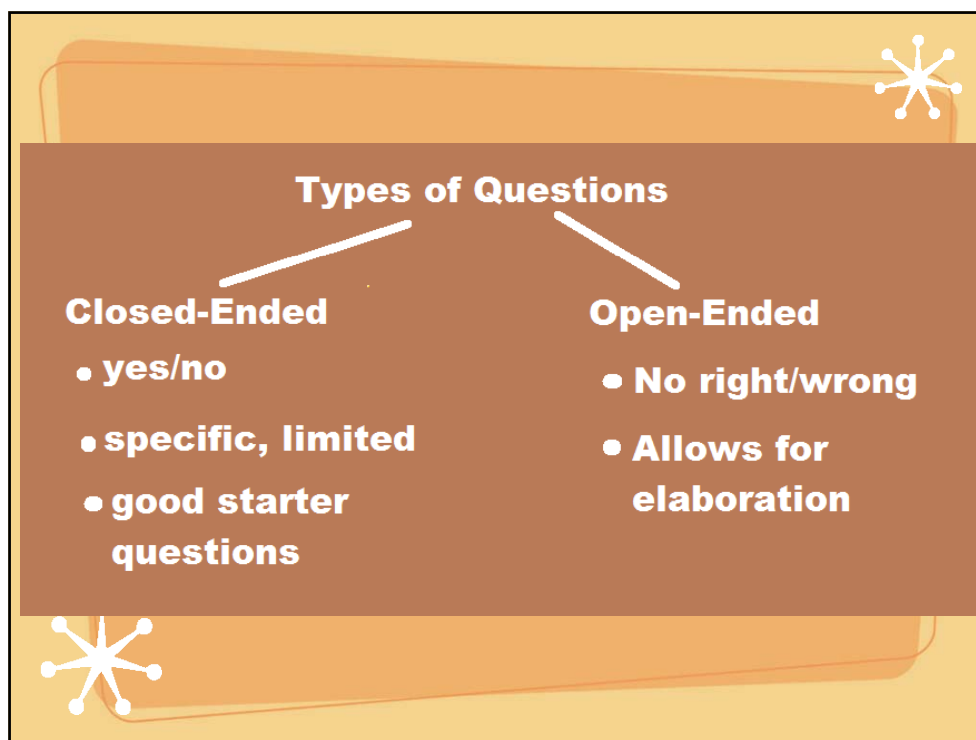
- Call for non-specific answers. No right or wrong.
- Invites more detail or a story to be told. Allows for elaboration
- Useful to elicit stories from interviewee.



Examples (answers will vary)

- What were some things you learned yesterday in Social Studies?
- What variety of things did you discover after analyzing/reviewing the civil rights documents yesterday?
- How are civil rights issues similar and/or different in 2014?





Can a question be both closed- and open-ended?

- Depends on whether you limit the responses

EXAMPLE:

What do you consider to be the most important issue facing your city government today?

<u>Open-end</u> (Responses)	<u>Closed-end</u> (response options)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxes, but some have improved • Mostly taxes, but traffic is just as bad • More lights at the park, so it's safer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime 2. Taxes 3. Construction 4. Schools 5. Parks 6. Other

Discussion

- Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How?

As a group discuss which of these "question words" are more likely to be used in an open-ended question or more likely to be used in a closed-ended question. Write your responses in your notebook.



Practice Cold-Call Interviewing

- In this role-playing activity, students are divided the class into groups of three. They get a worksheet that provides a scenario with a hypothetical reporter and source. Two team members role-play an interview while the third team member, the evaluator, offers coaching and suggestions as they practice cases. One person will be the journalist, one will be the source, and the third and fourth persons will observe and provide feedback.



Reflection



- Complete a reflection
- 1. What did you learn through this role playing experience?
- 2. How will you use what you learned in Electronic News Gathering Interview project?
- 3. Why could it be important to know how to ask good questions?

