



Flint Hill School

Susan H. Biggs
sbiggs@flintheill.org

**Powerful Questions are
Open Ended Questions**

Powerful Questions are:

- Non-judgmental
- Attentive & respectful
- Paraphrasing back to student what you hear and asking for
- clarification
- Not planning your response
- Not solving problems or giving advice

Instead of:

Yes/No	Why didn't you? Why was it late?
Are you... Did you... Have you... Will you...	•What could have caused this? •How might you have anticipated this? •What would you change next time?

Powerful Questions:

- What are some possible solutions?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What have you tried so far?
- How do you think you're going to approach that task?
- Can you describe it in your own words?
- Let's wipe the slate clean. What would you do now?
- What did you like the most...least...about it?
- What is the most important thing you learned about it?
- How could a person handle the problem like that?
- What seems to be the main obstacle?
- What worries you the most about...?
- How do you suppose you can find out more about it?
- How would you pull all this together?
- What if it doesn't work out the way you wish?
- And if it fails, what will you do?
- What resources has your teacher supplied?
- What could get in your way?
- How are you going to remember to do that?
- Imagine you were Teacher X, what would be the expectation for this assignment, project, etc.?
- What do you have for work today?
- What is your plan for...studying for this test? finishing this project? cleaning your room?
- How will I know when you have completed this?
- What is one thing that will give you a sense of accomplishment in this area?
- What is your back up plan in case this doesn't work the way you expect?
- What if it doesn't make sense to you?
- The same thing came up again, what would you do?
- Where do you go from here?
- We need to make to handle this?
- How would you describe our discussion to someone else?