

## Resource Guide

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### **Student-Generated Questions, Quotations, and Talking Points**

Instructors in all disciplines are interested in engaging students in class discussions in ways that help avoid shallow connections and superficial comments. One potential method was developed by Patricia Connor-Greene that is known as Questions, Quotations, and Talking Points (QOTP). The idea is to have students generate questions, quotes, and/or talking points in response to the content they were assigned to cover for the class period. Connor-Greene advocates having the students create all three types based on the reading for that class period in a one page paper due at the beginning of class. She uses two of the students QOTP's questions as the prompting of class discussion. Each class period two new students are chosen until all students have had their QOTP's used in class. After employing the QOTP method of stimulating class discussion for a semester, Connor-Greene's students reported that the questions and the talking points (over the quotations) were the key to "enhancing their understanding and preparation for class".

- Class discussions can see minimal participation and scattered focus often indicating that students have not adequately prepared or comprehended the assigned materials to enable for meaningful discussion.
- Connor-Greene has her students type a one-page QOTP that includes "a.) a question prompted by the assigned reading that day, b.) a quotation from the reading, selected as particularly compelling or controversial; and c.) a brief outline of ideas prompted by the readings that the students can use as 'talking points' in class discussion."
- This could also work in other formats besides a paper: class blogs, discussion boards, or even sharing parts of the student's QOTP using a tool like Twitter using a class hashtag.

#### Resources

Original Article: Connor-Greene, Patricia A et al. "Faculty forum." *Teaching of Psychology* 32.3 (2005): 173-189.

McKeachie, W. J., & Gibbs, G. (1999). *McKeachie's teaching tips: Strategies, research, and theory for college and university teachers*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

More in-depth explanation of QOTP in practice:

<https://www.slu.edu/blogs/ctl/2013/07/31/fostering-classroom-discussion/>

*For more information or to discuss how you might incorporate these ideas into your courses, contact the Reinert Center at [ctl@slu.edu](mailto:ctl@slu.edu).*