**Unit 2 Handout 2: How To Write A Question**

**A. Question Formulation Technique**

In AP Seminar, it is important that you, the student, is encouraged to question and explore topics for yourself throughout the course. Choosing your own topic, developing your own question and conducting their own research are part of both Performance Assessment Tasks so you need to practice this.

The technique consists of six steps to follow:

1. Teacher Design a Question Focus
2. Students Produce Questions
3. Students Improve Their Questions (Open ended vs. Closed questions)
4. Students Prioritize Their Questions
5. Students and Teachers Decide on Next Steps
6. Students reflect on What They Have Learned

**B. Practice Question Formulation Technique**

1. Question Focus

2. Produce Questions

3. Improve Questions

4. Prioritize Questions

**C. Developing Research Questions**

Developing a good research question is critical. Without one, you can end up picking a question that is toto braid to be properly researched or does no all for debate between perspectives. In AP Seminar, good research questions:

* Require a judgment or evaluation to be made (not just a description)
* Are researchable (is it possible to find credible and relevant sources)
* Involve genuine points of ongoing debate
* Are simple and do not contain multiple, nested questions

When it comes time for you to choose a research question:

1. Choose a topic of interest.
2. Start developing a list of questions about the conversation you have decided to join. When developing your list, think about what you want to accomplish with your research. Your research questions should begin with words such as what, why, when, where, who, how, would, could and should.
3. Once you have a list of research questions, it is time to select which one will be the focus of your research. Choose a question that best meets your interest and purpose.
4. Finally, you will need to refine your research question. When writing research questions, revision is inevitable. You want to make sure your question is not vague or too broad. One good way to do this is to do a preliminary search for resources. (Too many results means you should limit your scope; too few results mean you should broaden the scope of your question.)

**D. Group Work**

*Working with your group, evaluate the questions against the criteria for a good research question. Once you have done that, rewrite the questions to meet the criteria.*

1. What different attitudes do people around the world have to the relationship between parents and child?

1. Is euthanasia ever justifiable? If so, when?

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power stations?

1. The problem with South American education.