Participant Centered Learning Activity
Open Ended Questions

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS:

- Give you a longer answer with lots of useful information
- Ask the person to think and reflect
- Give you opinions and feelings – valuable stuff!
- Hand control of the conversation to the respondent
- Make your job easier and more enjoyable because you ask fewer questions

CLOSED QUESTIONS:

- Give you just the facts
- Are easy and quick to answer (usually “yes” or “no”)
- Keep control of the conversation with the questioner
- Require you to work a lot harder
- Keep your focus on your next question, instead of what the person is saying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Open Ended</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It's great weather, isn't it?</td>
<td>What did you do on your holidays?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do you live?</td>
<td>How do you keep focused on your work?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What time is it?</td>
<td>Tell me more about your project at work.</td>
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THE ACTIVITY: Forming open-ended questions

Work with a partner and ask a closed ended question about the person’s (choose one: their weekend, children, vacation, first bicycle, dog or cat, etc...or think of something on your own...) keep asking closed ended questions about the topic until you hear me call time. The goal is to gather as much information as possible.

Now try it again using open ended questions.

When I call time- stop. We will hear a sample of how this went. Discuss with larger group what worked and what was challenging.