

# NOW WE'RE TALKING

CREATING GREAT CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Do It Together Sabbath School Virtual Convention  
Presented by Hubert Cisneros  
September 11, 2021

---

---

---

## EVERYONE IS A TEACHER



- When you have the right questions, you stimulate positive discussion.
- When a person shares their views in a discussion they are in a sense “the teacher” of the group for a few moments.
- When others in the group listen and learn from them everyone is benefited.

## PURPOSE:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS WORKSHOP IS TO GIVE YOU TOOLS TO LEAD POSITIVE CLASS DISCUSSION.



KEY  
QUESTIONS



ADVANCE



TIME



CLEAR



ADAPT



TRAIL

---

---

---

## THE GREATEST TEACHER

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. “

Acts 4:13 NIV



---

---

## THINK ABOUT IT



- Do more people come to Sabbath School or to the Worship Service? Why?
- Who gets the most out of the Sabbath School Lesson?
- Why did people of all ages throng to hear Jesus?
- How did Jesus teach that kept people of all ages so captivated?

# **8 TYPES OF CREATIVE QUESTION STYLES**

**“VCR GLIDE”**

**V - Voting**

**C - Continuum**

**R - Ranking**

**G - Goal Setting**

**L - Listening/ Watching**

**I - Interview**

**D - Dilemma**

**E – Either/ Or**

**VOTING** YOU CAN ✓ RESPONSES ON A PIECE OF PAPER OR WITH HAND MOTIONS.



### Example

- Strongly Agree (both thumbs up and pumping)
- Agree (just thumbs up)
- Uncertain (arms crossed)
- Disagree (thumbs down)
- Strongly Disagree (thumbs down pumping)

---

---

---

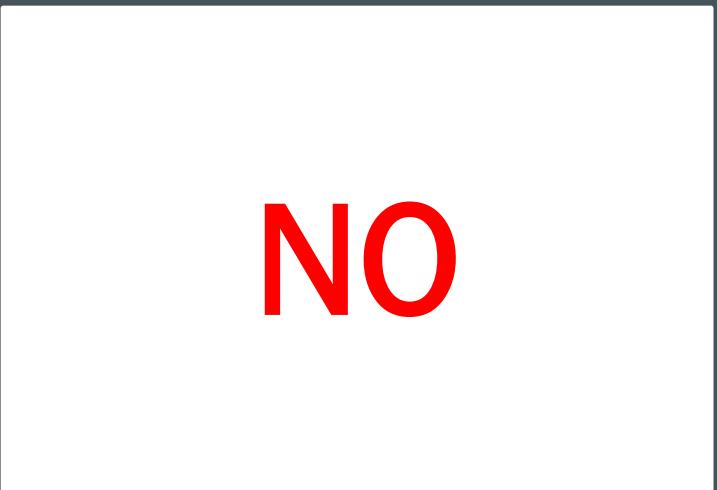
## VOTING YES OR NO

Have the “yes’s” move to one side of the room and the “no’s” to the other side of the room. They have three minutes to produce the top three reasons for their votes. They choose a spokesperson to speak for their side.

### Example



YES



NO

## **CONTINUUM** A LINE THAT SEPARATES TWO OPPOSITES

A key question could be: “God’s will for my life is:” One opposite answer is “Clear” and other opposite answer is “Fuzzy.” Somewhere on the line is where people are asked to mark with an “X.”

### **Example**

**“God’s will for my life is:”**



## RANKING NUMBERING THEM IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

Here's are two examples for ranking: "God communicates to us primarily through:" Rank the following options 1, 2, 3, and 4. Another ranking question could be, "Who would you go to if you had a problem?"

### Example 1

- Words
- Loving actions
- The witness of the Church
- The Holy Spirit Miracles

### Example 2

- Dishonest Politician
- Self-righteous Person
- Prostitute

---

## **GOAL SETTING** THE PROCESS TO DECIDE WHAT TO ACHIEVE OVER A PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME.

Goal setting is usually given at the end of a discussion. You can use it to start a discussion by opening up the goal for adjustment through participant discussion.

### **Example**

“We are about to begin a 1-month emphasis on reading the Bible for our personal devotions. Our goal is for 100% of the people in our class to read the Bible for 30 minutes a day, 7 days a week, for a month. Is this a good goal for our class, or should we adjust it?”

---

## **LISTEN/ WATCHING**

After hearing a paragraph of information (listening), participants respond based on the information received. This can be done with a skit or a YouTube clip, or you can create your own.

### **Example**

“Hector has just discovered Jesus for himself, and he’s VERY excited about this incredible discovery! He wants to share this good news with everyone – NOW! So, Hector walks up to other co-workers and asks, “Are you saved?”

1. What do you think of Hector? 2. What do you think of Hector’s method? 3. What are some other ways to share the Gospel?

## INTERVIEW

This method of discussion starters can be done 1-to-1 in front of the group, or the facilitator can jump from person-to-person with a question or a flow of questions on a given topic.

### Example

Ask several people the first question, then several other people the second question, and so on. You'll notice that the third question plunges people into something much deeper than the first two. Handle the responses in the same way as you do the first two rather than making a big deal about them.

---

## INTERVIEW CONTINUED

Example continued:

1. What do you do when you have some free time? (1st Base)
2. On most, days, do you spend more time with friends or with family? (1st Base)
3. Do you spend more time each day getting physical food or spiritual food?  
(1st Base)

Note: Respond to each respond with affirmation and people will feel safe to share.  
(2nd Base)

## DILEMMA

A situation gets presented in which there is no easy next step. The listeners make suggestions on what can be done and their reasons for their ideas.

### Example

**First Day:** Heather reluctantly accepts Jason's invitation to the banquet, figuring it's better than going alone.

**Second Day:** Marcus catches Heather in the school hallway and asks her if she'll go with him to the banquet. Heather can't believe it! She's been waiting for two years for Marcus to notice her. She quickly says, "Yes," to Marcus and walks on air the rest of the day.

---

## THE DILEMMA

That evening, Heather gets jolted back to reality when Jason phones and asks her the color of her dress for the banquet, since he wants to buy a corsage that matches her dress.

- Is this a dilemma?
- What could Heather do?
- What should Heather do?
- What would you do if you were Heather?
- What would you do if you were Jason?
- Is there anything from the Bible that could help Heather know what to do?
- Are there any Bible principles that help people make wise decisions?
- What are the factors?

## **EITHER/ OR**

Participants are given an “either-or” statement and are asked to choose one or the other, then give reasons for their choice.

### **Example**

“Would you rather:

Hear God’s voice once, clearly and out loud **OR** Hear God frequently in a still, small voice?”

What are Bible examples of both, and lessons learned from both?

---

## EITHER/ OR CONTINUED

“Which is more important to God:

The belief's we hold

OR

The life we live?”

Who do you admire for their beliefs? Why?

## WHAT'S THE POINT?

1. Begin with the end in mind.
2. Know what the main point of the lesson is and take the class to that point.
3. Jesus always had a point to his teaching.
4. Sometimes Christ's parables were left without an ending because it was left to the hearers to make personal choices and thus how the ending would end.
5. You need to know where you are leading the class.
6. Discussion simply for discussion's sake is not healthy.
7. It can make the teacher feel good about themselves to have a lively discussion but don't get hijacked by a visitor or member who has their own agenda or hobby horse.
8. Know the Sabbath School lesson and take the class to the place the lesson is designed to take them.
9. Great discussion questions will help you get your class to the main point.