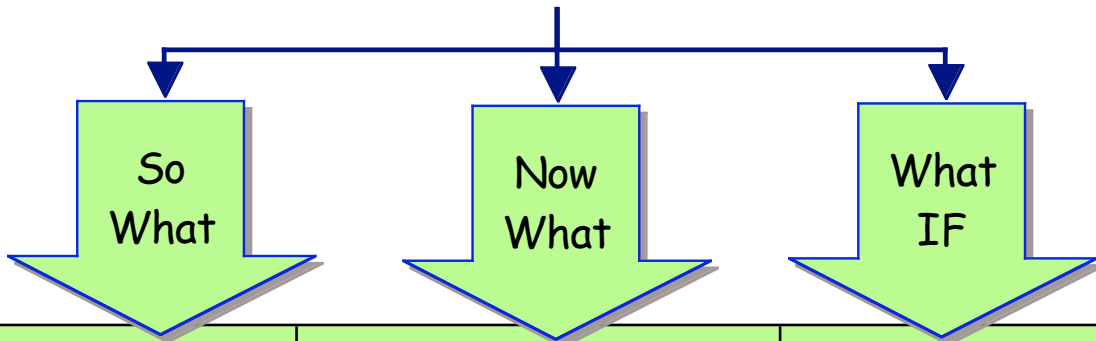


The Power of SO WHAT

Asking students to report ABOUT a topic requires them to research, gather, and report known facts using CLOSED questions. Topical student work demonstrates being information consumers of existing facts.

- Write a report ABOUT the planets in our solar system.
- Create a PowerPoint ABOUT the Civil War.

Transforming with Reasoning/Thinking (OPEN) Questions



DECISION-MAKING	AN ACTION PLAN	INVENTING
Asking SO WHAT tasks students to analyze the facts in order to make an evidence-based decision or conclusion. (analysis)	Asking NOW WHAT requires students to develop a plan of action that analyzes the facts to shape a quality, evidence-based resolution. (analysis)	Asking WHAT IF invites students to synthesize information in order to generate plausible alternatives or likely scenarios to worthy issues or situations. (synthesis)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What invention of the 20th Century has had the greatest impact? • Does it matter if animals are extinct? • What makes a human being smart? • Are there really aliens? • Who is the greatest running back? • Why should high-energy physics research continue to be funded by the United States government? • Can novel XXX be justifiably banned to students in our schools? • Who would Abraham Lincoln give his “swing vote” to in this presidential election? • What is ONE invention you couldn’t live without today? • What makes a great leader? • Should we be afraid of snakes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon are endangered - now what? • The auto industry is almost bankrupt - now what? • What would you do to create a habitat that would make your animal happy and healthy in your local zoo? • What is the most economical plan to reduce the impact of zebra mussels on the Great Lakes ecosystem? • How would you solve the problems caused by urban deer? Include no more than two strategies? • How would you develop a healthy lifestyle plan for a client profile (famous, family or friend) • Animals are becoming extinct - now what? • The main character of a book is struggling with a conflict – now what? • There are school bullies - now what? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you design and build a car IF you needed to increase the fuel mileage? • What IF ALL insects were eliminated? • What IF humans could live forever? • How would you design and market XXXX product IF it needed less environmental impact? • What IF you could invent a “green laws” bill for local lawmakers to pass - what would you recommend that was doable and makes the highest impact? • What IF you were asked to design an ideal habitat for a favorite animal to be moved into your community’s zoo? • What IF people stopped shopping? • What would you choose to create IF you designed an invention that would most benefit to your schoolmates?

