

# Discover Writing Study Circles



Barry Lane

## Study Circle #2

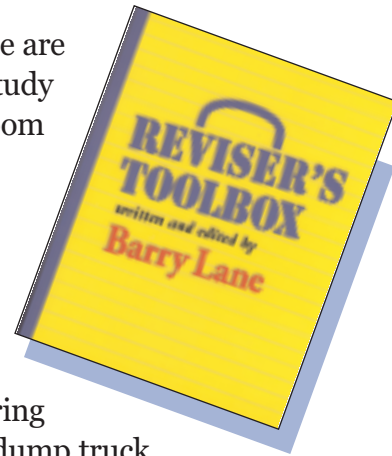
### Questions are the Answer

**Objective:** To learn that all questions are not created equal. Some are far more interesting than others. Curious questions can help us study and improve research. They can also transform a normal classroom into a “question culture,” where everyone is engaged.

**What you need:** Paper, pens and curiosity

**Reading:** *Why We Must run with Scissors*, Chapter 2  
*Reviser's Toolbox*, Page 122

**Breaking the Ice:** Ask the question, “What is the problem with student reports?” Often a report is not directed by an inquiring mind but by a list of facts and information. Students, with little focus, write dump truck essays, where their information is simply back-loaded onto the paper. In many schools this type of writing passes for “a report,” and this process is supposed to resemble “a skill.” How do we help students see that their best non-fiction writing will come when they let their questions direct their curiosity. Here are a few simple ideas to learn, which should teach the value of questions to your students.



### Small Group Work:

**Interrogative CPR:** Here is a fun way to see the value of questions.

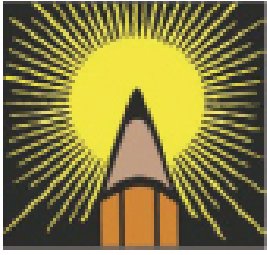
- ➔ Make a list of boring subjects with the group. Here are a few examples: Laundry, Socks, Insurance, Filing
- ➔ Now, take one subject and ask as many questions as you can to stimulate interest in this topic. Classify your questions into different types.  
Example: Historical, mathematical, theological, etc.
- ➔ Write down the questions as you think of them? Share the questions.  
Ask students to talk about how the questions peak their interest in the boring topic.  
Start off the discussion with a statement like: “I want to know where the other sock goes,” or “Tricks I know to avoid losing socks.”

### Big Group Discussion

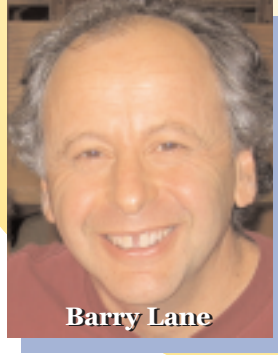
Did the questions bring to life boring topics? If so, how? Notice how all questions are not created equal; some are much more intriguing than others.

Are you more interested in your topic now?

Do you want to know the answer to any questions?



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### Questions are the Answer

#### Small Group Activity 2: Question Circles

Form groups of 4 people. Each person must come up with a topic or interest about which they are knowledgeable. Each person will talk about his/her topic for a minute or two. The others should scribble down questions about the subject. When the talker is finished, the questioners will ask their questions.

#### Big Group Discussion

What happened in the group? Did you get more interested in the topic when you asked the questions?

Did you find it easier to ask questions the more you did it?

Can you create a “question culture” in your class?

#### Follow up for next section:

Try one of these activities with your class and report back to the circle next session.