

## **Best Practices in the Question Formulation Technique**



**Santa Clara County Office of Education  
1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131  
January 27-28, 2017**

We are excited that you are here with us in San Jose, CA for the Conference on Best Practices in the Question Formulation Technique! We are looking forward to working and learning with you, and we are excited for the new discoveries this conference will yield.

Sincerely,  
Dan Rothstein

# Conference Agenda

## Day 1

- 1:30 – 2:00pm **Registration**
- 2:00 – 2:15pm **Welcome & Conference Overview**  
Michelle McMillian & Dan Rothstein
- 2:15 – 4:15pm **Introduction to the Question Formulation Technique (QFT)**  
Dan Rothstein & Sarah Westbrook  
Experience the Question Formulation Technique, learn about the three thinking abilities strengthened by the QFT process, and see k through higher education classroom examples.
- 4:30 – 5:15pm **Lesson Planning using the QFT**  
Michelle McMillian & Sarah Westbrook  
Attendees will use the QFT planning workbook to create their own application for use in their classroom or organization. Learn tips with our teacher-in-residence.
- 5:15 – 5:45pm **Reflection Activity**

## Day 2

- 8:30 – 9:00am **Check-in & Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:30am **QFT Video Viewing and Discussion**  
Sarah Westbrook
- 9:30 – 10:30am **The Art and Science of the QFT**  
Dan Rothstein  
In the five years since Harvard Education Press published *Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions*, we have learned a great deal about best practices for using the QFT. We will explore together best practices for facilitation, design of each element of the QFT protocol, and artful adaptations of the protocol.
- 10:45 – 11:45am **QFT Lesson Planning 2.0**  
Design and refine your own lesson or session and take advantage of opportunities for feedback.
- 11:45 – 12:30pm **Lunchbreak**
- 12:30 – 2:15pm **Advancing the Work: From Conference to Action**  
Experience the Question Formulation Technique to problem-solve professional development challenges. Learn best practices for sharing the QFT with colleagues.
- 2:15 – 2:30pm **The Right Question Institute as a Resource**
- 2:40 – 3:30pm **Shared Interest Groups**  
This is an opportunity for you to work with a group of colleagues on a topic of your choice.
- 3:30 – 4:00pm **Reflection & Closing Remarks**

## Presenter Bios

**Dan Rothstein** is co-author, with Luz Santana, of *Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions* (Harvard Education Press: 2011) which first introduced the QFT and led to its enthusiastic adoption by over 200,000 teachers around the world. Dan's work focuses on honoring and supporting the work of educators who are driving a movement in urban, suburban, and rural communities to help students learn to ask better questions and take more ownership of their own learning. His active learning keynotes and seminars have engaged many audiences, including statewide rural education organizations, large urban districts, the Library of Congress, Harvard Medical School, and others. His work has appeared in a wide range of publications and has been featured on National Public Radio.

**Dominique Rivera** is advancing RQI's school-family partnership work, which aims to help families and parents build their capacity to ask questions and participate more effectively in their children's education. She holds a dual B.A. in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she also served as a Post-Baccalaureate Research Fellow and Outreach Coordinator. Dominique is passionate about supporting equal access to high quality education. She has served as an ESL instructor at Centro Presente Inc., coordinated enrollment of Spanish and Portuguese speakers in affordable healthcare at the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development, and completed a year of service as a preschool teacher for AmeriCorps's Jumpstart program.

**Michelle McMillian**, our 2017 Northern California Conference Teacher-in-Residence, is a classroom teacher in Mammoth Lakes, CA. She has taught a variety of age groups from elementary to high school levels, as well as all ages in the private sector. She has happily settled at Mammoth Middle School as a Spanish teacher and instructional leadership team member. She is a past participant of the RQI West Coast conference and an active user of the QFT in her classroom. She is also passionate about leading professional development at her school, where student questioning utilizing the QFT is a school-wide best practice. She has experience integrating technology into the questioning process, and you can find her on Twitter @sramcmillian.

**Sarah Westbrook** is a former high school English teacher who now works on RQI's education programming and the Million Classroom's Campaign, which aims to expand the use of the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to one million classrooms by 2020. During her seven years of teaching and tutoring in Boston area public schools, Sarah developed a passion for advancing equity and success for all students and a deep appreciation for the innovative, dedicated work fellow educators do every day that often goes unseen. She holds a M.A.T. in English Education from Tufts University and a B.A. in English from Bryn Mawr College. Follow her on twitter @rightquestion for the most up to date articles, resources, and classroom examples.

## Our Team

### RQI Staff

Dan Rothstein, Co-Director

Luz Santana, Co-Director

Andrew Minigan, Ed. Project & Research Coordinator

Dominique Rivera, Program Associate

Sarah Westbrook, Education Program Associate

### RQI Fall 2016 Interns

Erin Block, Harvard School of Education

Kayla Cha, Harvard School of Education

Evan Fantozzi, Tufts University

Joan Kim, Tufts University

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RQI's Board of Directors	

We are delighted to be here at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. We would like to thank the Santa Clara County Office of Education for graciously sharing their space with us and Christina Arpante, Jhun Madriaga, and Bonnie Mace for their support in making this conference possible.

We would also like to acknowledge the valuable role played by Harvard Education Press (HEP) and ASCD in making the QFT available to a wide audience through the publication of Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions (HEP, 2011) and Partnering with Parents to Ask the Right Questions (ASCD, 2016).



The Right Question Institute is excited to launch our campaign to ensure that the Question Formulation Technique is used to develop students' thinking abilities and curiosity in a million classrooms by the year 2020. Our Million Classrooms Campaign is part of a larger project made possible with the support of a generous grant from the Sir John Templeton Foundation for "Activating and Demonstrating Greater Curiosity by Learning to Ask Questions."

We want to thank the more than 200,000 educators around the world who are using the Question Formulation Technique. Without their support and excitement, this goal would not be possible. We continue to learn every day from the innovative educators in the field who are dedicated to teaching students how to ask their own questions.

**Learn more** about the Million Classrooms Campaign: <http://rightquestion.org/mcc/>

