

Question time

Approach: Group

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: Photo of a policeman, policewoman with a police dog.

Questions/instructions

Here is a photograph of police officers. Lets imagine that you have invited them to talk to your class and that they have agreed to come along.

You need to get ready for their visit by thinking of the questions that you can ask them; questions that will give you really good information about their work, and interesting information about their lives.

Try to think of really interesting questions that you could ask.

Tell me your questions as you think of them and I will help by writing them down on this piece of paper.

Record the student's questions in a manner that allows the students to see them in written form. Give encouragement by saying: "Is there anything else you would like to ask? Have you any more questions?"

Once the list of questions has been formed:

Now I am going to give you your list of questions, and as a team, I want you to decide on 6 questions that you will ask. You don't have to use just questions from your list. You can think of other questions if you want to. Before deciding which six questions, you will need to talk about why some questions may be better than others.

Spend a couple of minutes doing that now.

Teacher withdraws to allow the team to work.

After a couple of minutes:

Now I want you to tell me the six questions you have chosen, and the reasons why you have chosen those six questions.



	% responses	
	y4	y8
Prepared a range of questions relevant to the topic		
yes	86	93
no	14	7
Identified 6 questions for presenting to police officers		
yes	83	94
no	17	6
Questions inviting		
extended answers	10	25
brief answers	48	55
one or two word replies	42	20

Commentary

Year 8 students showed greater skill than year 4 students in developing questions that give opportunities for more elaborate replies and information giving.