Guided Reciprocal Peer Questioning

The goal of this activity is to generate discussion among student groups about a specific topic or content area.

- Faculty conducts a brief (10-15 minutes) lecture on a topic or content area. Faculty may assign a reading or written assignment as well.
- Instructor then gives the students a set of generic question stems.
- Students work individually to write their own questions based on the material being covered.
- Students do not have to be able to answer the questions they pose. This activity is designed to force students to think about ideas relevant to the content area.
- Students should use as many question stems as possible.
- Grouped into learning teams, each student offers a question for discussion, using the different stems.

Sample question stems:

- What is the main idea of ...?
- What if...?
- How does...affect...?
- What is a new example of ...?
- Explain why...?
- Explain how...?
- How does this relate to what I've learned before?
- What conclusions can I draw about...?
- What is the difference between... and...?
- How are...and...similar?
- How would I use...to...?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?
- What is the best...and why?