

## Seminar Question Types

Question Type	Description	Examples
Opening Questions	These are questions anyone can answer; knowing the text allows you to ask the question, but you don't to have read to answer.	
Closed-ended Questions	The purpose of these questions is to find out what the text says; there is really only one answer to them.	
Open-ended Questions	There are many possible responses to these questions; there is no "right" answer. You need evidence (probably from the text) to help answer these questions.	<b>In his essay, Muhammad Ali details changes and challenges in his life shaping who he was to become in his later adult life, and yet the word "still" in the title indicates a <u>paradox</u> of sorts, since that word indicates no change. How does this <u>paradox</u> develop the story that supports Ali's bigger point? What is that point?</b>
Core Questions	These questions help you explore the "big ideas"—themes, main ideas, and essential issues—of the work.	<b>To what extent does the tale of Gregor Samsa make us think deeply about our own identity, about the fluidity of what we take to be stable and fixed, and about the perils and miracles of our own metamorphosis?</b>

Question types and descriptions adapted from Ensrud, Mark. "Getting at What They Want to Know: Using Students' Questions to Direct Class Discussion." From *Inquiry and the Literary Text: Constructing Discussions in the English Classroom*. James Holden and John S. Schmit, eds. NCTE, 2002: 79-86.