

# Writing and Asking Good Questions

## *Good Student Questions for Tutorial*

1. Good questions are questions, not statements.

**Question:** Which states participated in the American Civil War?

**Statement:** Find states in the Civil War

2. Good questions are process-oriented, not product oriented.

**Product-oriented:**

1. What were the three reasons states supported slavery?
2. What is  $2x - 3$ ?

**Process-oriented:**

1) Why did some states support slavery and some not?

What implications did supporting or not supporting slavery have if you were a southerner?  
A northerner?

2) What are the steps for finding  $x$  when it is the only variable? When it is one of two variables? (Real-life student translation: What are the steps for finding  $x$  in a problem like this:  $2x - 3$ ? What if there's a "y" also?)

3. Good questions lead necessarily to more questions (particularly the question, "why?"), and may provoke uncertainty initially, but lead to a deeper understanding once the ideas and concepts are discussed.

4. Good questions may have more than one good answer.

5. Good questions take a significantly greater length of time to respond to than do poor questions.