2: Filtering Your Questions

Instructions: Now that you’ve brainstormed a long list of questions, you’ll work together to sort the list into two different types of questions: closed-ended questions and open-ended questions:

- Closed-ended questions: Questions that can be answered with “yes,” “no,” or another one word response.
- Open ended questions: Questions that require more than a simple “yes,” “no,” or one-word response.

1. Sort: Re-read the list of questions that your group brainstormed and identify which questions are closed-ended and which are open-ended. Mark any open-ended questions with a star.

2. Discuss: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each type of question. What can you learn from each type?

3. Revise: Revisit your group’s close-ended questions. Are there any that can be changed or rephrased so they become more open-ended? Select two or three closed-ended questions to revise. Work together to revise the questions. One member of your group should add these revised questions to your list and mark them with a star.

4. Prioritize: Select three open-ended questions that you would like to discover answers to as a group. Choose questions that—once answered—will best help you explain to the class what is happening in these photos. Circle these three key questions on your list. Record your key questions on “3: Three Key Questions” for your teacher to collect.