

Name _____

The Great Escape: Freeing Questions from Tiny Boxes

Sometimes questions are so specific they trap the answer in a tiny box. For example: *"In exactly three words, explain why George Washington wore a wig."*

That's way too narrow! A broader version gives more breathing room, like: *"Why did people in the 1700s wear wigs, and what role did George Washington's hair play in his image?"*



In this activity, you'll take questions that are *too narrow* and open them up so they can invite fuller, more useful answers. Think of it like zooming out with a camera—you still see the important details, but now the bigger picture makes sense too.

Too Narrow Question: In two sentences, explain why Abraham Lincoln grew a beard.

Opened-Up Question: Why did Abraham Lincoln grow a beard, and how did it affect his public image during his presidency?

Your Turn

1. Too Narrow Question: Name one animal that lives in the Amazon rainforest.

Opened-Up Question: _____

2. Too Narrow Question: In five words, explain how Wi-Fi works.

Opened-Up Question: _____

3. Too Narrow Question: State one reason Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Opened-Up Question: _____

4. Too Narrow Question: What's one ingredient in spaghetti?

Opened-Up Question: _____

5. Too Narrow Question: Tell me the score of the last Super Bowl.

Opened-Up Question: _____