about that. Please don't ask me to sing this hour, because with my vocal cords the notes will be awfully sour.

SQPL

SQPL stands for Student Questions for Purposeful Learning. The strategy helps students ask questions that are important to them before reading and learning. By doing so, students heighten anticipation and engage in more purposeful exploration of the topic as they search for answers to their questions.

The first step entails crafting a thought-provoking statement and presenting it to students. A ninth-grade science teacher, Roberta preparing her class to read an article on genetic engineering wrote this statement on the board:

Since scientists have already cloned animals as large as sheep, making exact replicas of dogs, cats, and even human beings through the process of cloning may be possible within the next few years.

The next step is to allow students to pair up and brainstorm questions they would like to have answered based on the statement. After asking her students to turn to their neighbor, Roberta told them to come up with three questions they would like answered about the statement on the board. While students worked together on their questions, Roberta moved throughout the room to monitor their progress and help clarify the assignment.

The next step involves eliciting the students' questions and writing them on the board or overhead. The goal here is to gather a variety of questions by making sure each student pair contributes at least one of its questions. We recommend that you highlight or star questions asked by more than one pair of students; these become class consensus questions. You can also consolidate questions by combining similar ones.