



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

How to Write LifeSmarts Questions

To share your expertise with LifeSmarts participants, please consider writing questions for the **next LifeSmarts program year**. We welcome your assistance as we strive to add **1,500 new questions** to our database to keep the competition fresh and relevant for our high school participants and their coaches.

The National Consumers League requests your new questions by **July 31** in order to use them during the next program year. We also need expert volunteers to review the new questions in August and September. Please contact Lisa Hertzberg at lisah@nclnet.org if you are interested in writing or reviewing questions this summer.

Question-Writing Criteria

LifeSmarts questions test teenagers' consumer knowledge and marketplace skills. Each question must meet the criteria listed below. As you develop LifeSmarts questions, please keep these criteria in mind:

1. Questions test the core content subject areas: personal finance, consumer rights and responsibilities, health and safety, technology, and the environment.
2. Questions should be succinct and written in simple language. Questions should be easy to understand when they are read aloud.
3. Questions are needed at all three levels: easy, moderate, and challenging.
4. Focus questions on what matters most to teenagers, from the products and services they use, to the consumer decisions they are making, and the resources they need now and as young adults.
5. LifeSmarts questions should be practically useful and not silly or trivial.
6. Questions should be challenging but fair.
7. Questions should avoid value judgments and be free of any personal bias.
8. Do not include the name of any company in your questions.
9. Questions must be national in scope.

10. Include both multiple-choice and open-ended questions:
 - a. Multiple-choice questions are a good choice for questions that have several reasonable answers but only one correct answer. Multiple-choice LifeSmarts questions have four possible answers.
 - b. Open-ended questions require students to come up with the answer on their own; no choices are provided. This format works well for terms, definitions, and acronyms or phrases that you would like to turn into questions. This format also works well for an issue that has multiple effects, benefits, solutions, and causes.
11. Provide correct answers for each question. For multiple choice questions provide all four answers (one correct, and three reasonable but incorrect). For open-ended questions provide all possible correct answers.
12. LifeSmarts uses a very limited number of true-or-false questions, so we prefer to receive open-ended and multiple choice questions.
13. Note the resource used for each question.
14. Submit your questions by email to: lisah@nclnet.org.

Thank you!

LifeSmarts Question Format *			
Category	Keywords	Questions	LifeSmarts Question Example
Remember	Define Describe Identify Label List	Answers questions of Who, What, Where, and When	Chemicals that improve and maintain quality in fuels are known as: a. Additives (correct) b. Adjusters c. Supplements d. Lubricants
Understand	Explain Compare Contrast Order Summarize	Answers questions that demonstrate understanding	Milk is labeled by fat content. Order the following types of milk from most fat content to least fat content: low-fat milk—whole milk—skim milk: Answer: whole milk, low-fat milk, skim milk
Apply	Choose Identify Utilize	Answers questions such as “How is,” or “Why is”	Give one reason pasteurization is significant to public health? Answer: It eliminates milk borne illness or disease; makes milk safe to drink
Analyze	Analyze Differentiate Outline Compare Categorize Contrast	Answers questions such as, “What are the Parts,” “Distinguish between,” “What factors affect...”	You are aware of the human cost to the environment, and you want to reduce your carbon footprint. To visit your grandmother who lives 300 miles away, your best choice of travel would be: a. By car b. By plane c. By train (correct) d. By bus
Evaluate	Conclude Critique Evaluate Justify	Answers questions that organize parts of information	If the price of oil continues to rise, what impact will this have on the number of miles Americans drive this year? Answer: Miles driven will go down
Synthesize	Change Relate Predict Rearrange	Answers questions that require connecting two or more facts	Describe two serious challenges that occur when a pandemic emerges in the world population: Answers: Rapid spread, health care systems overloaded, death rates high, medical supplies inadequate, travel disruption, economic disruption, businesses and schools close

* Based upon Bloom's Taxonomy; Source: Anderson, L.W., & Krathwohl, D.R. (Eds.) (2001)