Questioning

Nothing new is learned until a question is asked. You begin with a blank white sheet of paper and create knowledge. You keep questioning to keep ideas flowing until inspiration hits.

☞Begin by asking:

      ? What exactly is it that we must do in this problem - what is (are) the main focus(es)?

      ? How can we rewrite the problem in our own words to make it real and useful to us?

      ? Can we do this? Do we have or can we get the knowledge and skills we need?

      ? What research would help us with the background we need for our problem?

      ? What additional questions will our research generate?

(TM's need to also ask themselves these questions at the beginning of the year to be ready to direct and facilitate the teams progress)

☞Concentrate on the target points - those elements of the problem by which the team will be judged

      ? Isolate the specific elements of the problem the team will need to solve.

      ? Ask many questions, in a series, about the process, subject, theme, task, character etc. to get to a distilled idea or solution

      ? Restate questions as statements or hypotheses to test an idea's strength as a solution to that element of your long-term problem

Examples of questions:

What should be done?   Why is it necessary?
When should it be done?   Where should it be done?
Who should do it?   How should it be done?
Can this be tested?   What kind of tests are best?
What if this were enlarged?   What if this were smaller?
What could be omitted?   What could be carried to extremes?
What if this were lower?   How could we make this lighter?
How could this be done faster?   How else could this be arranged?
What if we changed the order?   What should come next?
What about cause and effect?   What are the opposites?
What are the negatives?   Could we turn it around?
Why does it need to do ...?   Why can't it go like that?
Suppose we left this part out?   Why do you have that there?
What can we add?   How about a bigger package?
What if this were done more often?   What if this were left unsaid?
What would that character say about that?   How does this character feel?
What color would make this stand out?   Can we hide this from the audience?
What idea does it suggest?   How about changing the shape?
What else could be made from this?   What can we substitute?
What would cost less?   How can we make this flashier?
How can we make sure the judges see this?   If I say these lines do they make sense?
Draw me a picture of it?   Make us a model of that?
Can you make it happen without a team member?   Can you make it do that another way?

Be careful of questions that start like the ones below that you don't interject YOUR idea!
* What if...?   * What about...?