Questioning Strategy
*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (Signet Classics, 2004)

**Purpose of this Strategy**
Developed by Cowan and Cowan (1980), the cubing strategy acts a stimulus for writers. The strategy allows students to analyze a topic in depth, from a number of perspectives. The six sides of the block actually parallel Bloom’s taxonomy of comprehension levels. The cube can be imaginary or constructed from various materials. Large blank dice are available from teachers’ supply stores; you can cover a square tissue carton, or use the handout to create a die. The handout may be enlarged or reduced in size to fit your needs.

**Directions**

**Step One: Create a six-sided cube**
On each side, write one of the six comprehension levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy (Describe it, compare it, associate it, analyze it, apply it, argue for/against it).

**Step Two: Choose an object or topic**
Decide on a topic from the play that students may need help understanding on a deeper level. Some important concepts from the play and good examples include:

- Satire
- Hypocrisy
- Triviality
- Irony
- The nature of marriage
- Morality
- Farce
- Victorian England
- Earnestness

**Step Three: Brainstorm**
Ask students to consider each side of the cube as it pertains to the chosen topic. Students should brainstorm ideas for no more than five minutes. Ask students to write down their responses and prepare to argue for their answers.

**Step Four: Roll the die**
Roll the cube and call on students to answer, based on the comprehension level that was rolled. Once a student has answered, he or she can pass it to another student to roll.

**Example**
Choose a topic: Marriage
1. Describe it: A man and a woman are lawfully bound and vow to stay together
2. Compare it: Marriage involves serious commitment, unlike two people that are just living together
3. Associate it: *(What does it make you think of?)* Wedding rings, vows and promises
4. Analyze it: *(Tell how it is made?)* A man and woman who have been dating each other for a long time decide seriously to be together for the rest of their lives. People usually get married in churches, surrounded by friends and family.
5. Apply it: *(How can it be used?)* As a powerful bond, a companionship, a blessing
6. Argue for/against it: *(Why is it important?)* Marriage is essential to humanity because it teaches people about real love and sacrifice. A strong marriage makes for happier children.

Aubrey Lee, BYU, 2009
Assessment

This activity can be informally assessed. The teacher may award participation points if the students are watched to be sure that they all have a chance to roll the die and answer.