



Writing Multiple Choice Questions for CLOVER

What makes a good question?

The best questions are directly related to the main reasons the CLOVER Activity exists in the first place. See the *CLOVER Learning Objectives Guide*. Questions aren't just testing if someone read & understood the content, they're deepening the learning and making the takeaways easier to remember in the future. Aim for what's most important, not trivia that's easiest to ask about.

If you've created quizzes before, the approach detailed below may look a bit different than how you've done this previously. This is based on the evidence-based learning practices of [Dr. Patti Shank](#), educational best practices such as [this guide](#), filtered against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ([WCAG 2](#)) from the W3C, and focused toward 4-H's Positive Youth Development (PYD) model. But don't worry, it's probably much easier than what you've done before!

Why only Multiple Choice (and what is Multiple Select)?

The reason we're only using the Multiple Choice question type at this time is accessibility. Multiple Select questions are essentially the same as Multiple Choice and can be written the same way. The only difference is that Multiple Selects have more than one right answer.

How do I make a well-formed multiple choice question?

Good multiple choice questions have four parts:

1. Title / Question stem
2. Option / Correct answer
3. Option / Most common wrong answer
4. Option / Second most common wrong answer

There's no need to get overly creative here or start asking questions about pizza if the content is not about pizza. Also, you don't need 4 options, just 3 (no more, no less).

What about True/False?

While there are some existing True/False Questions, we're avoiding making more of them for instructional reasons. While familiar to all of us, they're simply not as valuable to learners, and they're usually pretty easy to convert to Multiple Choice questions with just a little more work.

What about "all of the above" & "none of the above"?

If you want to create an All-of-the-Above style question, you can turn that Multiple Choice question into a Multiple Select by simply highlighting multiple answers.

Here's an example:

Before (all of the above Multiple Choice)	After (Multiple Select)
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<p>The benefit(s) of using cloud computing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. ScalabilityB. Cost savingsC. FlexibilityD. All of the aboveE. None of the above	<p>The benefit(s) of using cloud computing include (select all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. scalabilityB. cost savingsC. flexibility
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We aren't creating "none of the above" questions going forward.

Should I add feedback to right/wrong answers?

Yes, you are encouraged – though not required – to add this to your question. Think about why someone would get the answer wrong, and how you would guide them to guess better now. Also, how can you reinforce & embellish upon the right answer with relevant details? Add this when you can, but don't stress over adding content every time.

How many questions should each CLOVER Activity have?

Aim for **3-5** questions. We recommend looking at your Learning Objectives and making one question for each. If you feel strongly that fewer or more questions would be more appropriate for this content, please simply let us know and we can discuss it further.

What about scores & tracking?

We're not grading anyone on how they answer questions, though we are tracking the results. Youth can retake their quiz questions as many times as they like, but they aren't forced to retake anything -- even if they get all the questions wrong. Completion is based on activity, not percentage correct. What we're tracking in the background is for the purposes of improving the questions and overall CLOVER experience.

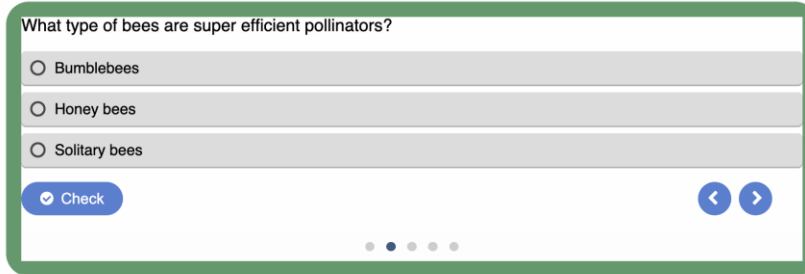
What does my question look like when it's done? What do youth see?

The current Web view of a sample question on CLOVER appears like this:



Test Your Knowledge

See how much you've learned about pollination!

A screenshot of a quiz question interface. The question is "What type of bees are super efficient pollinators?". There are three radio button options: "Bumblebees", "Honey bees", and "Solitary bees". Below the options is a blue "Check" button. To the right of the "Check" button are two blue circular arrows, one pointing left and one pointing right. At the bottom center of the interface are four small grey dots, with the first one being slightly larger and darker, indicating the current question.

This came from a question originally scripted like this:

What type of bees are super efficient pollinators?

- a. Bumblebees
- b. Honey bees**
- c. Solitary bees

There are other ways your question may be rendered as well, that we are always iterating and improving – particularly for interactives. You will get the chance to see and approve the content before it goes live.

Where do I go with my own questions?

Please reach out to Sam Rogers srogers@fourhcouncil.edu with any questions, challenges, or concerns.