

105 Would You Rather Question Cards

Print on card stock, cut on the dotted lines, and keep a stack by the door. Six sets, color-coded by the label at the top of each card.

How to run one in five minutes

1. Read the card aloud and post it. Students write their pick and one reason before anyone talks (30 seconds of silence matters).
2. Physical vote: left side of the room or right side. Nobody stays in the middle.
3. Call on two students from each side for one reason each. Reasons, not volume, win.
4. Ask, "Did anyone hear a reason that almost changed your mind?" Then move to the lesson.
5. Use the history and thinking sets to lead straight into content: the reasons students give become your hook.

Classroom norms that keep it useful

- Pick one. "Both" and "neither" are not answers.
- Give a reason you could say to a judge.
- Disagree with the reason, never the person.
- Pass is allowed once per week.

What is inside

- Icebreaker: 20 cards
- History and social studies: 25 cards
- Academic and thinking: 20 cards
- Funny (classroom-safe): 20 cards
- Middle school: 10 cards
- High school: 10 cards

ICEBREAKER

#1

Would you rather be able to talk to animals or speak every human language?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#2

Would you rather have a rewind button or a pause button for your life?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#3

Would you rather live in a big city or in the middle of the countryside?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#4

Would you rather be the best player on a losing team or a bench player on a championship team?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#5

Would you rather read the book or watch the movie first?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#6

Would you rather have summer all year or winter all year?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#7

Would you rather be famous for something you made or for something you did?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#8

Would you rather explore the deep ocean or outer space?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#9

Would you rather always know the answer or always ask the best question?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#10

Would you rather have a personal chef or a personal driver?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#11

Would you rather wake up at sunrise every day or stay up until 2 a.m. every night?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#12

Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#13

Would you rather know how to play every instrument or speak every language?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#14

Would you rather have one best friend or ten good friends?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#15

Would you rather be really good at one thing or pretty good at everything?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#16

Would you rather never have homework again or never have a test again?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#17

Would you rather live without music or without movies?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#18

Would you rather plan every detail of a trip or show up and figure it out?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#19

Would you rather be the oldest sibling or the youngest?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ICEBREAKER

#20

Would you rather have a free week off school now or an extra week of summer later?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#21

Would you rather meet a famous person from the past or a famous person from 100 years in the future?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#22

Would you rather live in ancient Rome or ancient Egypt?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#23

Would you rather sail with Magellan or ride with the Pony Express?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#24

Would you rather sign the Declaration of Independence or help write the Constitution?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#25

Would you rather be a medieval knight or a medieval merchant?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#26

Would you rather travel the Silk Road or cross the Atlantic on the Mayflower?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#27

Would you rather witness the first Moon landing or the fall of the Berlin Wall?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#28

Would you rather be a scribe in ancient Egypt or a printer right after Gutenberg?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#29

Would you rather live through the Renaissance or the Industrial Revolution?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#30

Would you rather be president for one year or a Supreme Court justice for twenty?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#31

Would you rather be an explorer who finds a new land or a scientist who finds a new cure?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#32

Would you rather live without electricity or without running water?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#33

Would you rather visit the Library of Alexandria or the Great Wall while it was being built?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#34

Would you rather be a newspaper reporter during the American Revolution or the Civil Rights Movement?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#35

Would you rather have dinner with Benjamin Franklin or with Harriet Tubman?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#36

Would you rather lead an army or lead a debate in Congress?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#37

Would you rather live in a monarchy with a fair king or a democracy with an unpopular leader?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#38

Would you rather be a pioneer on the Oregon Trail or a worker building the transcontinental railroad?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#39

Would you rather be the first person to fly with the Wright brothers or the first to ride a car with Henry Ford?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#40

Would you rather know the full history of your town or the full history of your family?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#41

Would you rather have a vote on every law or elect someone you trust to vote for you?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#42

Would you rather be an inventor in the 1800s or an astronaut in the 1960s?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#43

Would you rather live in a castle with no heat or a log cabin with a fireplace?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#44

Would you rather read a diary from a teenager in 1776 or a letter from a soldier in 1944?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

#45

Would you rather be remembered in history books or remembered by everyone in your town?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#46

Would you rather solve a hard problem alone or an easy problem in a group?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#47

Would you rather write a five-page essay or give a five-minute speech?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#48

Would you rather learn by reading or learn by doing?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#49

Would you rather know a little about everything or everything about one subject?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#50

Would you rather be graded on effort or graded on results?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#51

Would you rather take one big final exam or ten small quizzes?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#52

Would you rather have a teacher who is strict and fair or relaxed and unpredictable?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#53

Would you rather discover a new planet or a new species of animal?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#54

Would you rather be able to remember everything you read or understand everything you hear?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#55

Would you rather argue the side you agree with or the side you disagree with?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#56

Would you rather build a robot or write a novel?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#57

Would you rather have unlimited books or unlimited internet?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#58

Would you rather fix a problem fast or fix it perfectly?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#59

Would you rather be the person with the idea or the person who makes it happen?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#60

Would you rather get honest feedback that stings or kind feedback that is vague?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#61

Would you rather study with music or in total silence?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#62

Would you rather have a class with no grades or a class with no deadlines?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#63

Would you rather be able to predict the weather perfectly or predict the stock market perfectly?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#64

Would you rather lose your phone for a week or lose your voice for a week?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

ACADEMIC AND THINKING

#65

Would you rather make a mistake in front of the class or never try at all?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#66

Would you rather have spaghetti for hair or sweat maple syrup?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#67

Would you rather talk like a pirate for a day or sing everything you say?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#68

Would you rather have a pet dinosaur the size of a cat or a cat the size of a dinosaur?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#69

Would you rather only be able to whisper or only be able to shout?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#70

Would you rather have hands for feet or feet for hands?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#71

Would you rather wear socks that are always wet or shoes that are always one size too small?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#72

Would you rather sneeze glitter or hiccup bubbles?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#73

Would you rather have a rewind button for embarrassing moments or a mute button for annoying people?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#74

Would you rather ride a giant chicken to school or a tiny horse?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#75

Would you rather eat only pizza for a year or never eat pizza again?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#76

Would you rather have a nose that glows when you lie or ears that wiggle when you are nervous?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#77

Would you rather be a superhero with a useless power or a villain with an amazing one?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#78

Would you rather have a theme song play every time you walk in or a laugh track play after every joke you make?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#79

Would you rather live in a house made of candy or a house made of LEGO?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#80

Would you rather have a talking backpack or a talking locker?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#81

Would you rather fight one horse-sized duck or one hundred duck-sized horses?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#82

Would you rather have to hop everywhere or crab-walk everywhere?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#83

Would you rather lose all your eyebrows or have one giant eyebrow?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#84

Would you rather swap lives with your pet for a day or with your teacher for a day?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

FUNNY

#85

Would you rather have a cloud that follows you and rains or a sun that follows you and makes you sweat?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#86

Would you rather have recess back or have a longer lunch?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#87

Would you rather be the class president or the yearbook photographer?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#88

Would you rather go on a field trip to a museum or to a science center?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#89

Would you rather sit wherever you want or have the teacher pick the perfect seat for you?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#90

Would you rather have a pet hamster in class or a fish tank?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#91

Would you rather be on the school play crew or in the school play?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#92

Would you rather have gym every day or art every day?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#93

Would you rather write with a pencil forever or a pen forever?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#94

Would you rather be able to skip one class a week or leave school an hour early on Fridays?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

#95

Would you rather do a group project with your best friend or with the smartest person in class?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#96

Would you rather go to college right after graduation or take a gap year to work and travel?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#97

Would you rather have a job you love that pays okay or a job you tolerate that pays a lot?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#98

Would you rather learn a trade or earn a four-year degree?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#99

Would you rather have your first car be brand new and boring or old and awesome?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#100

Would you rather live close to home after high school or move across the country?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#101

Would you rather start your own business or work your way up at a big company?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#102

Would you rather have a great reputation or a great bank account?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#103

Would you rather know your future career now or figure it out as you go?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

HIGH SCHOOL

#104

Would you rather run for city council at 18 or vote in your first presidential election?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com

Would you rather be the team captain or the player who scores the most?

Pick one. Give one reason. · ElevateTheNorm.com