

THE THINKING CLASSROOM: THE ART OF QUESTIONING

by:

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Growing up, I always ask myself why the moon walks whenever I walk. Cliched as this may seem, but we all asked the same questions either to ourselves or to our parents. We have always been curious, and this will always lead us to ask questions. Soon after I become a teacher, I have seen how question and answer becomes a part of the discussions. But as a teacher, do we really ask the right questions to our students? Or are we just giving them false questions that could lead them to just choosing options?

Teachers ask questions mainly just for recalling facts from previous lessons. Most of the times, we ask them what they have remembered from the previous discussions. This tends to become routinely where students just memorize lessons to answer. The essence of art of questioning diminished as we are not being able to target the higher order thinking skills. If we want to foster HOTs and critical thinking in the classroom then there must be some changes on the ways on how we ask students questions.

Normally, as teachers, we ask Closed questions which require a definite and limited answers. It makes the students ask so few because they think they would be wrong. To change this, we must know how to ask rightfully to them. Effective questioning strategies can be done through the following:

Purposive

You must be able to know why do you ask the question? Are the answers limited or are they open to many more answers that can possibly make the students grow more questions. You must also know if what you are trying to teach to make students learn.

Linked to Learning Outcomes

Effective questioning must involve all students. Questions should not be focused around one or two students only. In this way, learners will be encouraged to join discussions and further can ask questions too.

Promotes Healthy Discussion

Having all students involve is surely fun and proactive, thus, always make sure that you do not only seek for CORRECT answers but rather, you focus on how students cope up from a certain question thrown. In this way, healthy discussions happen.

Promotes Climate of Enquiry

Various questions should be asked to promote learning. A combination of the traditional closed questions and open questions is the best way to this. Having closed questions for the limited answers to open questions that vary and promotes higher order thinking skills give the students a full understanding of the lesson.

With all this being said, questioning is really hard to do and motivating the class to answer is a challenge. With right actions and right questions, a thinking classroom will happen, and questions will surely be molding them to answer future challenges.

References:

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