THE SCIENCE OF QUESTIONING

by:

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“I know you won’t believe me, but the highest form of Human Excellence is to question oneself and others”.

-Socrates

Students come to school as a question mark. That’s why the art of questioning is the very essence of teaching. The moment a question leaps from the mouth of a child, learning begins.

The knowledge of how to construct an effective question is to facilitate learning, to initiate, guide, and assess learning and to promote higher order thinking skills critical, analytic, and evaluative.

There are some questioning techniques that an effective teacher can utilize.

1. **Redirection**- a technique that increases student participation and reduces the teacher’s domination. A way to break the usual pattern of directing questions to those who volunteer to answer being the primary participants and to those who are rarely responding or not even attending at all to the task. A single question is asked for which there are several answers.

2. **Prompting**- uses hints and clues to assist/help a student arrive or come up with a response of an answer successfully. A way to break the usual practice of calling on another student or giving away the answer if a student gives an “I don’t know” answer, a weak response or an incorrect answer.

3. **Probing** – deals with insufficient answers and promotes reflective and critical thinking.

4. **Wait Time** – amount of time teachers allot to students after asking a question or the time spent in waiting for students to respond.

An effective teacher should know how to ask and know how to ask it.
References:

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