

Learning Tips: Supporting Active/Interactive Learning- **10** Kinds of Questions to Ask Students

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As we continue to create learner-centered environments for success and to develop ways to engage students in critical and reflective thinking, discussion can be a potent tool, but as Steven Brookfield (author of *Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher*) reminds us, the quality of discussion that follows is only as rich as the questions we pose. Here are **10** kinds of questions with examples to consider. They come from: *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning* by M. Huba and J. Freed*.

Open-ended Questions

- What are your reactions to the Microsoft case?
- What aspects of this problem were of greatest interest to you?
- Where should we begin?

Diagnostic Questions

- What is your analysis of this problem?
- What conclusions did you draw from these data?
- Why do you think your team is having difficulty working together?

Information-seeking Questions

- What were interest rates at the time?
- What was the rate of inflation?
- What was the economic situation?
- How often did your team meet?
- What group problem-solving strategies did you use?

Action Questions

- What needs to be done to implement this recommendation?
- Who needs to do what in order for it to work?

Prediction Questions

- How do you think employees would react to this action?
- What do you anticipate the board's response to be?
- How comfortable will you feel presenting your findings to the class?

Questions on Priority

- Given the limited resources, what steps should be taken first? Second? Third?
- You mentioned that there are three aspects of your paper that you still need to work on. Which one will you address first? Why?

Challenge Questions

- Why do you believe that?
- What evidence supports your conclusions?
- What evidence is contrary to your argument?

Hypothetical Questions

- What would have happened if a strike had been called by the union?
- How do you think management might have reacted if there had not been a change in top leadership?

Questions of Extension

- What are the implications of your conclusions for the community in which this business is located?
- How would the business community react to your recommendations?

Questions of Generalization

- Based on your study of computer and telecommunications industries, what do you consider to be the major opportunities and threats?

* Huba, M.E. and J.E. Freed. (2000). *Learner-centered assessment on college campuses: shifting the focus from teaching to learning* (p. 196). Boston: Allyn and Bacon. (NOTE: Huba and Freed adapted the questions from Christensen, C.R. (1991). *Education for judgement: the artistry of discussion leadership* (p. 159). Boston: Harvard Business School Press.)