Top tips for effective questioning



Inspire

Encourage students to think and construct answers, not just recite information.



Provoke

Use questioning to provoke conversation and encourage students to do most of the talking.



Challenge

Try asking 'wicked' questions to provoke discussion and reasoning, and to build students' confidence with higher-level thinking.



Even where students' responses are correct, challenge students' accuracy and ask follow-up questions to probe and clarify a student's thinking further.



Connect

Ask questions that get students to make connections with prior knowledge, personal experiences, or real-world applications.



Use plain language

and keep questions short.



Follow up incorrect responses with probing or scaffolding for the correct answer.



Pause

Provide enough time for students to think about answers.



Collaborate

Involve as many students as possible in thinking about answers – students share their thinking with partners in front of the class.



Lead and extend

Follow factual questions with questions that inspire thought. This connects prior knowledge (recall) to problem-solving and ongoing learning.