Designing Effective Projects: Questioning Elaborating, Hypothetical, and Clarification Questions

Questions for Different Kinds of Thinking

Different kinds of questions generate different kinds of thinking. These definitions and examples describe three kinds: elaborating, hypothetical, and clarification questions.

| Questioning Technique | Definition | Examples |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Elaborating Questions | These questions help to extend and broaden the importance of the meaning. Students can elaborate on the question making it more personal to them. | What are the implied or suggested meanings? What does this mean to you? How could you take the meaning farther? What could the next step be? |
| Hypothetical Questions | These questions help to explore possibilities and test theories. These are the "what would happen if" questions, allowing students to use their imaginations based on the facts they have learned. | What if the earth had no sun? What if the polar ice caps melted? What if Charlotte in Charlotte's Web had lived? What are the possible pros and cons? |
| Clarification Questions | These questions help to define words and concepts and clarify meaning. | How did the character get to this point? How did they gather the data? Was it a reliable process? What is the sequence of ideas and how do they relate to one another? |

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