



Learner and Teacher Agency

Quality Questioning by teachers and students.

Students' cognitive development is dependent upon intellectual challenge. By utilising higher order questioning, teachers can model quality questioning and stimulate their students' ability to think well.

The General Capability of Critical and Creative Thinking is an integral part of the Australian Curriculum. The first organising element is *Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas* and its first component is *Posing Questions*. For example, by the end of Year 10, students pose questions to critically analyse complex issues and abstract ideas”.

In order to achieve this goal, it is crucial for students to learn to generate their own questions and to understand the importance of questions in their thinking and learning.

Participants in this workshop will understand that:

- intentional planning of questions and question sequences extends students' learning and deepens understanding
- giving students opportunities to understand different types of questions and how to construct them gives students a powerful tool in developing cognitive and metacognitive learning
- teaching students to ask their own questions increases motivation and engagement
- teacher modelling of quality questioning skills in the classroom is a powerful influence upon students doing the same.

Course description

This course is best taken in 2 parts: Teacher and student. Both parts combine theory with practice.

Part 1 will focus upon developing quality questioning skills in teachers. Participants will examine the types of higher order questions that can be asked and how these can be constructed. An understanding of Bloom's Taxonomy is essential.

Part 2 will explore and practise Question Formulation technique (QFT) and other effective research-informed ways of encouraging students to generate their own questions, for example, Guided Peer Questioning and Question Mapping.

References

Walsh, J. & Sattes, B. (2006) *Quality questioning*, LA, Sage Publications

Walsh, J. and Sattes, B. (2011) *Thinking through quality questioning*, CA, Corwin

Walsh, J. (2017). Questioning strategies to activate student thinking, *Quick Reference Guides*, VA, ASCD

Please note: This course can be offered in a variety of ways, the most popular of which has been 2 x 2 hour sessions.