Quick Tip: Questioning Skills to Engage Students

Questioning skills are essential to good teaching, especially indirect, open-ended questions that allow for divergent thinking. Such questions enable the faculty member to more accurately evaluate if the students truly were attentive and if they understand the material. In addition, open-ended questions motivate students to share their ideas, thereby allowing active, collaborative learning to take place.

Examples of questions that may foster engagement and confidence:

- Description: What is the difference between…
- Function: What is the function of…? What is the purpose?
- Procedure: How was this done? What is the next step? How do you do this?
- Possibility: What else could …? How could we…?
- Prediction: What will happen? What will it look like?
- Justification: How can you tell? What evidence led you to… ?
- Rationale: Why? What is the reason for that?
- Generalization: What is the same about … and …? What could you generalize from these events? How does that relate to this?
- Definition: What does (concept) mean?
- Meaning: What can we can conclude and take forward?

Wait Time
After posing one of these challenges, learners may need at least 15 seconds of processing time before they can begin to formulate their response. Education is not radio: dead space may have value.

References


In the Spotlight: The Power of Transparency in Your Teaching
How does one have more transparency in their teaching and what does this even mean? Mulnix tries to convey what this big idea is in teaching to develop independent and creative thinkers. Transparency in your teaching is "making obvious the intellectual practices involved in completing and evaluating a learning task" (Mulnix, 2016). You are essentially using metacognition (thinking about thinking) to convey the processes in your teaching, which is not natural as an expert since you are automatically and subconsciously doing many of the aspects of your processes. You first need to have a deep transparency of your own processes before you can describe exactly what you do intellectually when you synthesize or integrate, critique, or create (Mulnix, 2016). To be sure you are designing the best curricular pathway for success, make sure you can answer the following questions:

- “What are your learning outcomes for all of your students?”
- “Do your students know that these are your expectations?”
- “Do students understand the relationship between their demonstrated achievement of your learning outcomes and their preparation for future success in life and work?” (McNair, 2016)

For more information around transparency in your teaching, visit the Association of American Colleges & Universities Winter/Spring 2016 Vol.18 No.1/2 (https://www.aacu.org/peerreview/2016/winter-spring) for practice and research articles.

References

Mulnix, A. B. (November 7, 2016). The power of transparency in your teaching. Retrieved from http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/instructional-design/power-transparency-teaching/?utm_campaign=Faculty+Focus&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=37140209&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-AoMtVTJAXCRPNoeNDi6QPOa2P5AdHY3hUBZU1hOqHGjgm0KsF2QRU0i8eNBrCD5kziJH5hJV6v-<rPg6EfQZx5jnwK-A&_hsml=37140209

Trends: The Classroom of the Future

Education is changing right now! Technology and expanded knowledge of the learning process are altering the classroom experience. Although changes are happening the classroom structure and experience right now, what will the classroom look like in the next 5 to 7 years? Here is an excerpt from "4 Changes That Will Shape The Classroom Of The Future: Making Education Fully Technological".

The layout of the classroom will change immensely.
Forget about neat rows of chairs and desks from which students focus intently on the teacher delivering a lecture and demonstrating concepts on the whiteboard. That’s already falling out of favor today. Seating arrangements in the future will be flexible so that they are appropriate for
the task that students are working on, and there will also be more focus on the comfort of the students. Here are just a few things that will become more commonplace in the classroom of the future:

- Standing desks for students who have difficulty maintaining focus while sitting.
- Accommodation for students who need more movement.
- Private workstations will be available for individual tasks while collaborative workspaces will be available for group projects.
- Interactive projectors and other technology will replace interactive whiteboards.
- Students will be given more autonomy on how and where to sit.

Technology will certainly be a major factor in how education in the future differs from education today. However, it won’t be the only influence. Successful educators will realize that they need to rethink the entire model of education and redesign it so that it is more student-centered. (Dunwill, 2016)

References

Looking forward: Educational Technology Updates for 2017

2017 will be the year of innovation for MUSC’s educational technology. Below are updates to be aware of for changes over the next year in educational technology:

- **Moodle**’s theme will be changing by the end of 2017. Snap is a responsive theme, providing an optimal viewing and interaction experience across a wide range of devices. Pages respond to how the user holds the device and expands to an optimal view of the content no matter how it is viewed or on what device it is viewed. Some programs have already started migrating to Snap, while others have a plan in place that will be communicated to you. Visit the Moodle Library guide (http://musc.libguides.com/moodle-for-instructors) to see more on this theme on the main Moodle page as well as how the new theme looks in each of the areas. Feel free to email moodle@musc.edu for more information on getting training on this new tool!

- **Turnitin**, a plagiarism software, will be available to use in your classes beginning in January 2017. Turnitin allows you to create assignments in Moodle where students’ writing will be checked against millions of other papers and websites ensuring authenticity. An early January Apple Tree session will be scheduled so that those who would like to know more on how to use TurnItIn will be able to learn how to effectively implement it with their learners. Additional online education will be developed and sent out during the month of December to give you a head start on using the tool. Find more information on Turnitin Library guide (http://musc.libguides.com/turnitin-for-instructors). Feel free to email turnitin@musc.edu for more information on this new tool!
Panopto is MUSC's new lecture capture system and will be replacing Tegrity on campus by the end of Spring 2017. Panopto is very similar to Tegrity in its functionality; however, you will have access to a web-based video editor, automatic encoding to ensure your videos play efficiently on any device, and a unique search engine that helps your students review material mentioned or shown in their course videos. Panopto will be available to use in your classes beginning in January 2017. A mid-January campus-wide training will be hosted by Panopto to help us get started using this product, and we will continue to have monthly educational sessions on using this new tool. Additional online education will be developed and sent out during the month of January to give you a head start on using the tool. Find more information on Panopto on their website [HERE](https://www.panopto.com). Although you will have the opportunity to use Panopto in the spring, you will still be able to use Tegrity for your classes if you are not quite ready to jump into using a new tool that quickly. Tegrity can be used until the end of the spring 2017 semester. More information about a final timeline will be sent out soon! Feel free to email panopto@musc.edu for more information on this new tool!

**Reminders for the Holidays From OCIO**

The holiday season is approaching and many folks will be taking off work to enjoy time with family and friends. For those that will be working from home or from off site during the holidays, OCIO has a few reminders.

**Plan Ahead!** It’s a good idea to do a test run a few days before going on vacation to confirm everything is working properly before you need it!

**When You Set Your Vacation Time:**

1. Set up Out of Office Message for your email - [Directions](#).

2. Check your 2Factor Registration - Please make sure you are registered for 2Factor Authentication and have answered your security questions. If you're stuck somewhere (hopefully exotic) where you are unable to use your phone reliably, you can use your security questions to verify your login attempt. If you have problems, please contact the IS Support Desk between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday for assistance.

**The Day or Two Before you Leave:**

3. Change your voicemail greeting. [Directions](#).

**While You're Away:**

4. Remember you can access your MUSC email account via an internet browser (just be sure you’ve registered for 2Factor first.). Simply go to [exchange.musc.edu](http://exchange.musc.edu), respond to the 2Factor call or app, and and log in with your NetID and NetID password.
REMEMBER:

• If you get a 2Factor call but are NOT trying to log into email, VPN or Webapps, DO NOT PRESS POUND. While on the phone with 2Factor, press 446# so the security team is notified someone has your password and is trying to access your account.

So remember to verify that your email, voicemail and 2Factor are all set up and operating like they should before you leave for the holidays. It is far easier to deal with issues while you are still on campus instead of while you’re trying to cut the turkey. OCIO wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

Save the Date!
South Carolina Conference on Innovations in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
July 14, 2017
Location: Medical University of South Carolina
Sponsored by South Carolina Colleges and Universities
For more information: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/sccitl

Previous Tomorrow’s Teaching Newsletters: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/appletree

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