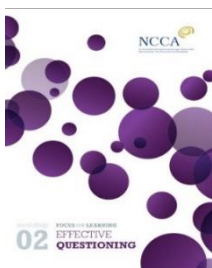




Making Questioning More Effective

When planning effective questioning, it helps to focus on why you are asking the question in the first place. The chart below shows some of the many purposes for asking questions in a classroom.

Purpose of question	Examples
To prompt students to reflect on their conceptual understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the most important idea from today's discussion? • Can you explain this concept in your own words? • Replace 'Do you understand?' with 'Give me an example so I know you understand.'
To ask a student to clarify a vague comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you say a bit more on that point? • Can you explain that a little more?
To prompt students to explore attitudes, values, feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the values or beliefs that inform this argument? • What has influenced how you feel/what you believe about this topic
To prompt students to see a concept from another perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think that this issue might be viewed by those with whom you disagree? • Imagine how this might apply to another situation or problem?
To prompt students to respond to one another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think about the idea just presented by your classmate? • Do you agree or do you see the issue differently? Explain.
To extend and deepen students thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the assumptions that informed your thinking? • What/who influenced your thinking?
To ask students to predict possible outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What might happen if...? • What are some possible consequences of...? • What would be the result if a different set of assumptions were used to set up this scenario?
To prompt students to connect and organise information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this shed light on the concept we studied last week? • Can you develop a graph or table that organises this information in a helpful way?
To ask students to apply a principle or formula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this principle apply to this situation? • Who can suggest how we might use this new formula to solve the problem we examined earlier?
To ask students to illustrate a concept with an example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you think of an example of this, drawn from your experience? • Can you point to a specific part of the novel that shows this theme? • Can you identify a painting or design that exemplifies that idea?



[NCCA Toolkit on Effective Questioning](#), p.7

