

Asking Good Questions to Get Great Answers



Why are we here today ...

- The way we phrase questions leads to how students can respond on assessments
- Asking questions in any subject area follow the same principles



Doesn't matter the subject area ...



The deeper the open-ended question and more focused, the better the answer you will receive from the student.

Carl Anderson asks his students in a writing conference, “How can you extend your evidence?”

How to find out what they know ...

Penny Kittle's favorite conferring question is, "What's worth talking about in what you read last night?"



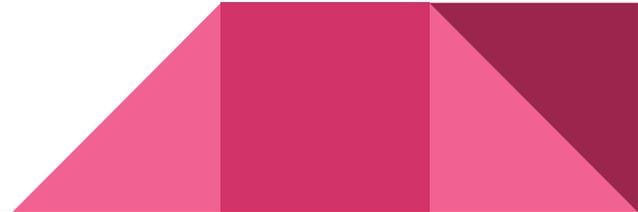
The simplest question pushes the furthest ...

For vague answers:

“What makes you say that?”



“How did you get that?”



Give them time ...



- Remind them to think before instantly raising their hand to answer
- Don't lead them when they answer, "I don't know." Add, "Well, think about it, ..." and ask the question again
- If the student still can't answer, ask related questions, don't give answers

Get the students to think without you leading ...



- Tell me how this concept develops?
- What stands out to you?
- What is the first thing that jumps out at you in this novel/event/experiment?
- Why do you think _____ is important?

Notice the focus of the questions ...

- What seems really important to you in this section/data/____?
- What are you struggling with in your reading/writing/calculations?
- What have you done to get your ideas to come across clearly?



The key is ...

- Provide deep open-ended questions
- Give students time to think
- Don't lead them to answers
- Rephrase when needed
- Let the kids answer

