

Questioning

INSET day, June 6th 2011

What is the purpose of these questions?

- A tourist asks a local resident where the train station is
- A man at a nightclub asks a woman if she goes there often
- A journalist asks a Lib-Dem member of the Cabinet whether they are happy with the Government's proposals for NHS reform
- A barrister, in front of a jury, asks someone who is being called up as an expert witness to list her professional qualifications and the positions of responsibility she has held
- An Economics teacher asks a student for a definition of 'stagflation'

Questioning

1. Why do teachers ask questions?
2. How/when could the different types of question be used in the classroom?
3. Why is it important that everyone in the class should expect to be questioned?
4. What can we, as teachers, do to create an environment in which all students feel comfortable being questioned?
5. What can we, as teachers, do to increase the likelihood of getting good responses from students to our questions?
6. What are the main pitfalls for teachers to avoid when asking questions during lessons?
7. What, for teachers, constitutes good practice in asking questions during lessons?

Extra reading

- *Pedagogy and Practice: Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools* Unit 7: Questioning (DfES 0430-2004 G)



Activity

- Using Bloom's taxonomy, design a sequence of questions on a topic in your subject area