

Teaching Tips

A Forum for discussion and tips for advancing teaching and learning at Mona

Centre for Excellence in Teaching
and Learning, UWI Mona



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Special points of interest:

- The Teaching Tips Newsletter is a publication of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at the UWI, Mona.
- The newsletter is published three times during each semester and a summer edition. It provides tips for improving teaching and learning in higher education and is available online (<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/cetl>) as well as in the office of the CETL.
- If you need additional teaching tips on specific classroom practices please contact us.

Using Question Stems to Provoke Critical Thinking

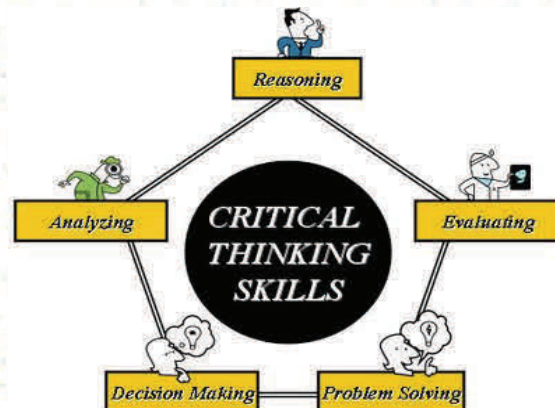
Taken from Alison King (1995, 22, p. 14), "Inquiring Minds Really Do Want to Know: Using Questioning to Teach Critical Thinking," *Teaching of Psychology*.

Question	Specific Thinking Skills Induced
What are the strengths and weaknesses of . . . ?	Analysis/inferencing
What is the difference between . . . and . . . ?	Comparison/contrast
Explain why/Explain how	Analysis
What would happen if . . . ?	Prediction/hypothesizing
What is the nature of . . . ?	Analysis
Why is . . . happening?	Analysis/inferencing
What is a new example of . . . ?	Application
How could . . . be used to . . . ?	Application
What are the implications of . . . ?	Analysis/inferencing
What is . . . analogous to?	Identification and creation of analogies and metaphors
What do we already know about . . . ?	Activation of prior knowledge
How does . . . affect . . . ?	Analysis of relationship (cause/effect)
How does . . . tie in with what we learned before?	Activation of prior knowledge
What does . . . mean?	Analysis
Why is . . . important?	Analysis of significance
How are . . . and . . . similar?	Comparison/contrast
How does . . . apply to everyday life?	Application to the real world
What is the counterargument for . . . ?	Rebuttal to argument
What is the best . . . and why?	Evaluation and provision of evidence
What is the solution to the problem of . . . ?	Synthesis of ideas
Compare . . . and . . . with regard to . . . ?	Comparison/contrast
What do you think causes . . . ? Why?	Analysis of relationship (cause/effect)
Do you agree or disagree with the statement . . . ? What evidence is there to support your answer?	Evaluation and provision of evidence
What is another way to look at . . . ?	Taking other perspectives

Four 21st century skills to advance learning

The four skills or 4Cs are:

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - the ability to make decisions, solve problems and take action as appropriate. Critical thinking can be modeled for students. At times you need to play devil's advocate and push them to seek another perspective in issue. Create opportunities through case studies, comprehension pieces, debate and other forms of classroom discussions. This could be facilitated with the use of narratives, pictures/photographs, digital images or other relevant artifacts enabling the investigation of issues and especially those pushing learners to look for alternative perspectives.



Effective Communication - the ability to synthesize and transmit ideas in both written and oral formats. Teach your students to write and speak clearly and concisely. Expose them to multiple contemporary issues that were communicated with panache and pathos. Provide examples of clear and effective communication for them to critique and emulate. This might be through online modalities, for instance, videos.

Collaboration - the ability to work effectively with others, including those from diverse groups and with opposing points of view. Encourage students to work together by creating learning opportunities that will cause them to think out issues together, debate, critique and respond to the thinking of other learners.



Creativity and Innovation - the ability to see what's not there and make something happen. Show them the creativity of exceptional persons in the public domain and certainly in their disciplines. Challenge them to interrogate their work and encourage them to push themselves to be innovative.



Check out our publications at
myspot.mona.uwi.edu/cetl/publications

which features our monthly *Teaching Tips*,
The Mona Teacher (a bi-annual newsletter) and other resource materials on teaching and learning.

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