

Martin Renton ■ Foreword by James Nottingham

CHALLENGING LEARNING Through QUESTIONING



Facilitating the Process of Effective Learning

Thank you

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CORWIN

Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Challenging Learning Through Questioning*, which outlines the top ten tips for better questioning.

LEARN MORE about this title, including Features, Table of Contents and Reviews.

10 TOP TIPS FOR BETTER QUESTIONING

1

THINK ABOUT WHY YOU ARE ASKING THE QUESTION: Will it stretch your students' understanding, engage your students, and make them think?

2

TAKE THE CHALLENGING PATH: Encourage thinking, reasoning, and better learning by following up first responses with the intention to explore.

3

PLAN YOUR MOVES: Effective questioning is about how you react to your students' responses. Consider your sequence before the lesson so you are more likely to create exploratory dialogue.

4

PREDICT WHAT YOUR STUDENTS ARE LIKELY TO SAY: When planning your questioning, imagine what responses you will get. Then prepare focussed questions to explore and challenge.

5

GIVE YOUR STUDENTS 'THINK-TIME': Wait *at least* 3 seconds to improve the number, quality, and length of your students' responses.

6

PRACTISE! Don't be afraid to have a 'prompt sheet' in front of you to work from. Share your prompts with your students: this models a process of learning together.

7

GET COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE! Give yourself and your students permission to think. Do the least amount possible to encourage them to keep talking, and give yourself processing-time. Some of the best questioning uses questions sparingly.

8

THINK-PAIR-SHARE: Encourage your students to test out their ideas with another student before answering. This ensures they engage with thinking and language.

9

TAKE A MEDIATION STANCE: Imagine you don't know the answer yourself. What questions can you ask your students to explore their understanding further and help them be clearer?

10

DON'T WORRY! However well intentioned and prepared we are, things don't always go to plan! If the sequence doesn't go where you expected, it is better to have made one move to explore than none at all. So just try again—there will be another question to initiate just around the corner.