

Asking Questions: The Secret Key for Promoting Advanced Level Thinking

Student to Teacher: Why do you always answer a question with a question?

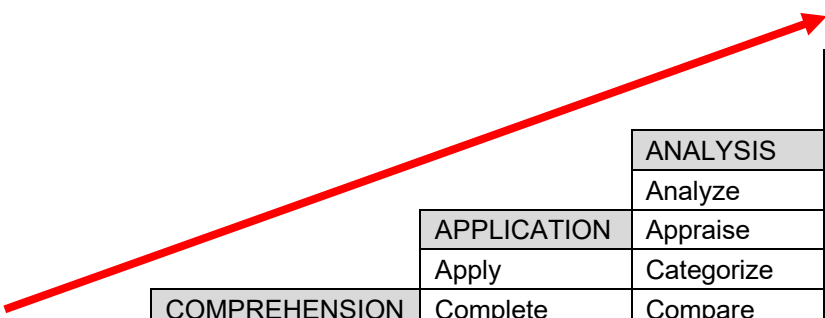
Teacher: What's wrong with answering a question with a question?

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Asking questions is an integral function in our search for information but question-asking can also develop higher-level thinking skills. We constantly use questions in our daily lives, when we interact with student in the classroom, when attempting to solve problems, and even when prompting advanced AI language models for answers. Nevertheless, much remains unknown about question-asking, [i.e., what makes certain questions better than others in achieving our information-seeking goals and, more importantly, goals that promote advanced levels of thinking skills].

In the diagram below there are a series of Verbs that can be used to increase various levels of learning to the highest levels. Use it yourself to improve your questioning skills in your classroom and place an enlarged version of the diagram on a bulletin board. Ask students to try to use these verbs when asking questions in class and take some time to go over the meanings of some of the verbs [e.g., *Conclude*, *Estimate*, *Interpret*]. Give positive feedback to students when they use these key words.

Verbs That Demonstrate Various Levels of Thinking.



					EVALUATION
					Appraise
				SYNTHESIS	Argue
				Arrange	Assess
			ANALYSIS	Assemble	Choose
			Analyze	Collect	Compare
		APPLICATION	Appraise	Combine	Conclude
		Apply	Categorize	Comply	Estimate
	COMPREHENSION	Complete	Compare	Compose	Evaluate
	Compare	Construct	Contrast	Construct	Interpret
KNOWLEDGE	Describe	Demonstrate	Debate	Create	Judge
List	Discuss	Dramatize	Diagram	Design	Justify
Name	Explain	Employ	Differentiate	Devise	Measure
Recall	Express	Illustrate	Distinguish	Formulate	Rate
Record	Identify	Interpret	Examine	Manage	Revise
Relate	Recognize	Operate	Experiment	Organize	Score
Repeat	Restate	Practice	Inspect	Plan	Select
State	Tell	Schedule	Inventory	Prepare	Support
Tell	Translate	Sketch	Question	Propose	Value
Underline		Use	Test	Setup	