

Asking Better Questions, Second Edition

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Summary

Asking Better Questions explores the compelling role of questions in creating a powerful learning environment. The research tells us that the person who asks the question is the active learner, yet too many classrooms still revolve around teacher-generated questions. This revision of a classic teacher resource recognizes that it takes time and diligence to become an effective questioner.

This remarkable book gives teachers the guidance and tools they need to encourage students to ask thoughtful questions and care about the answers. Based on extensive classroom experience, this comprehensive guide:

- helps teachers understand why questions are so important to teaching and learning
- suggests an uncomplicated way to classify the questions teachers need to ask in order to acquire information, build understanding, and generate reflection
- promotes a simple three-part classification of questions — questions that tap into what is already known; those that build a context for shared understanding; and those that challenge students to think critically and creatively
- offers models, techniques, and examples that promote better questioning by teachers and students
- allows for various entry points based on the interests and needs of the classroom teacher

The book recognizes that thinking and feeling are the essential components of a classroom that respects and encourages questions. It is committed to helping teachers ask the appropriate question at the right moment, within the give-and-take of classroom talk and activity. A variety of teaching stances, roles, and situations that will elevate language and encourage divergent thinking are part of this practical handbook.

The first edition of this ground-breaking book earned international recognition in K–12 schools and at faculties of education. A well-thumbed companion for classroom teachers, it has also served as an authentic introduction to the reality of classrooms for students in teacher training programs.

An ideal resource for new and experienced teachers, this timely revision is full of lively examples and practical exercises that have been “test-driven” in real classrooms.

Supporting Resources

- *Questioning Sequences in the Classroom: The Classroom Strategies Series* (MRL2496)
- *Questioning Makes the Difference* (3939)
- *Quality Questioning – Research-Based Practice to Engage Every Learner* (CO4425)
- *Leading Through Quality Questioning* (CO2943)