

Questioning Techniques

Learning to ask divergent questions as well as convergent ones will increase the level of thinking/learning.

Divergent questions are:

- productive in contrast to reproductive (students are asked to produce rather than reproduce).
e.g. List different ways to “see” without using the eyes. // List occupations that require eyesight.
- comparing and contrasting (moving from concrete to abstract ideas)
e.g. Compare/contrast books and lectures. How is building a building similar to/different from building a relationship?
- invitations to share feelings and opinions (opens the door to motivation through emotion)
e.g. Describe how you feel about statistics/collaborative learning/lectures/college.
- invitations to recall past experiences (validates the personal and sets the stage for integrated learning)
e.g. Recall a time when dialogue worked well / didn’t work well. Explain why.

-adapted from Nancy Johnson