

Analytical Questioning

Teaching Strategy	Considerations for Online Teaching
Asking and responding to questions	<p>Asking questions can help to encourage student participation where it is lacking, stimulate discussion and student interest where it is drifting, and follow-up with reminders when needed (Cook & Dupras, 2004; Juntunen & Heikkinen, 2004; Peacock & Hooper, 2007).</p> <p>A unique way to ask questions and stimulate discussion online is to use polls which are a feature in many online learning programs. The results from the polling/ quizzing of students can be used as a starting point for deeper, more detailed discussions (Blackboard Inc., 2007; Burgess, 2009). Another suggestion is to pose a question to the online group and ask group members to spend one or two minutes composing a mini-essay reply.</p> <p>Questions can also be used to encourage inquiry-based or self-directed learning. In this type of learning, students ask questions, determine what they need to know to find out the answer, use resources to gain knowledge and assess their progress, possibly going back to another question. To learn more about inquiry-based learning and how it can work online, check out WebQuest (http://webquest.org/index.php).</p> <p>To assess learning as you would face-to-face, ask questions that examine depth of knowledge in the way of group member perceptions, preparedness and completion of tasks (Burgess, 2009).</p> <p>If preceptors/instructors are finding that too many questions are directed solely to them, they can direct questions back to the group to encourage dialogue (University of British Columbia, n.d.).</p> <p>Preceptors may receive technical questions from students who are having difficulty with the program. To deal with these questions, you can direct students to the available technical support, develop a "Frequently Asked Questions" page, and provide summaries online for student reference regarding important information. Beginning the placement with a tutorial session on online learning where solutions to common problems are outlined is helpful. In addition, it may be helpful to set up a protocol for technical questions (i.e. if the problem is ..., then email me; if the problem is ..., contact the help desk) (Blackboard Inc., 2007).</p>

