Sparking Student Questions
Engaging All Students In Critical Thinking
Sparking Student Questions

Engaging ALL Students in Critical Thinking

Mentoring Minds®
Critical Thinking for Life™
Meet Your Presenters

Dr. Rebecca “Beckie” Stobaugh

- Former principal and middle and high school teacher
- Associate Professor at Western Kentucky University

Kim Brody

- Former middle, high school, and college teacher
- Professional Development Specialist
Objectives

Learning Targets

**Explain** the importance of student questioning.

**Describe** 3 questioning protocols to improve student questioning.
Questioning Protocols

Think, Pair, Square

Priority Questioning

10 x 10
Think, Pair, Square
“Problem-posing is more important than problem-solving” (Wagner, 2008, p. 214).

“One of the simplest ways to permit student questions is to stop asking questions yourself” (Dillon, 1983, p. 37).

In high-achieving classrooms, teachers talked around 55% of the time, whereas in low-achieving classrooms, teacher talk consumed 80% of instructional time (Flanders, 1970).

“Students who learn to ask questions are no longer just consumers of information; they are also generators of information” (Tucker, 2015, p. 78).
Think, Pair, Square
Think, Pair, Square
1. Select an image.

2. Develop 5 to 10 thoughtful questions.
1. Provide a visual timer with 10 minutes.

2. Students should generate 10 questions that spark student thinking about the topic.

3. Select the best questions to use in discussion.
Priority Questioning

Think, Pair, Square

10 x 10

Priority Questioning
Priority Questioning

1. In groups, construct as many questions as possible.

2. Record every question posed. Make sure all voices are heard. Avoid discussing any of the questions.

3. Change closed questions to open questions.
1. In groups, construct as many questions as possible.

2. Record every question posed. Make sure all voices are heard. Do not discuss any of the questions.

3. Change closed questions to open questions.

4. Prioritize the questions. Identify the top 3 questions.
1. Construct as many questions as possible.

2. Record every question posed. Make sure all voices are heard. Do not discuss any of the questions.

3. Change questions to open questions.

4. Prioritize the questions.

5. Share the top 3 questions.
Keys to Supporting Student Questioning

• Time
• Refinement
• Protocol
• Supportive Environment
Questions