

Using Questions in Facilitating Learning

Common Errors in Questioning

-adapted from Brown & Atkins *Effective Teaching in Higher Education* (Routledge, 1988), p.73

- Asking too many questions at once.
- Asking a question and answering it yourself.
- Asking questions only of the brightest or most likeable participants.
- Asking irrelevant questions.
- Always asking the same types of questions.
- Asking questions in a threatening way.
- Not using probing questions.
- Not giving time to think.
- Ignoring answers.
- Failing to build on answers.

Examples: Questions for Exploring and Applying

- When would you use this information? When might it not apply?
- What would be an example of that point?
- What would be an alternative viewpoint?
- What do you think is the underlying principle?
- In what situation would this rule break down?
- What distinguishes the two cases?

Exercise

Rewrite the following questions to make them open-ended, specific and directed.

1. Are you ready to start?
2. Did you like the last presentation?
3. Are you finding this interesting?
4. Do you think that was a good point that the presenter made?