



Classroom questions quotes and discussion questions Teacher training worksheet

Quotes

“it is rare to demand of people... how do you spell rhododendron unless you really do not know the answer. Cross questioning, checking up and interrogation are rude in every day life, but the staple of classroom life” Delamont, *Interaction in the Classroom* (1984), quoted in *Questioning* by George Brown and E.C. Wragg (1993) pg 3

“A five year old returned from her first day at school and announced that her teacher was no good because she didn’t know anything. When asked why she thought that, she replied that the teacher kept on asking us things...” *Questioning* by George Brown and E.C. Wragg (1993) pg 3

“The most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows. Ascertain this and teach him/ her accordingly” Ausubel , *Educational Psychology: A Cognitive View* (1978), quoted in *Questioning* by George Brown and E.C. Wragg (1993) pg 3

Discussion questions

What was your favourite quote above? What does it mean to you?

Why do people ask questions in normal life? Why do teachers ask questions? What are the differences?

Why do students ask questions?

Why do teachers usually ask more questions than students? Is that true in your classroom? Can you do anything to change that? Would you want to?

Why do some teacher questions not get answers?

What are the alternatives to the teacher asking lots of questions in the classroom? Are those better or worse? Does it depend on what kind of class or what kind of teaching is going on?

Roleplay a classroom situation in which a teacher is asking lots of questions, trying to make the student responses ones that are typical of your classroom. After you finish discuss whether the same interaction could have been done another way and maybe do the roleplay again that way.