

Pedagogy Newsletter #46

19th December 2019

Dear Colleagues,

This week I wanted to share a technique we have been practicing across SPA to check for understanding - 'Probing Questioning'.

Quite often, teachers will ask a question to one student and immediately move onto another student, in the hope of 'piecing together' a collective answer to a big question. The problem with this approach is that it tells you very little about a student's individual understanding.

'Probing questioning' aims to achieve the opposite:

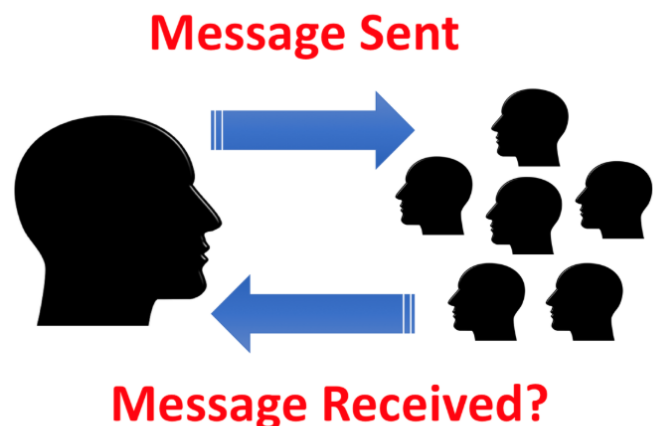
Principle: In order to explore a student's schema in any depth, you need to ask them several questions; asking several students one question each provides shallow responses compared to when each student has to provide multiple responses.

Practice: Make it the default that, in any given exchange, you are asking each student, 3,4,5 questions before moving on, probing for understanding, checking for misconceptions, adding extra challenge, providing scaffolding to engineer success

Read the article [here](#) and this is a document I created which provides [examples](#).

Kind Regards,

Fran Goodship



Weekly Writing Outcome Example (English)

This week's weekly writing comes from year 6 pupil at Culloden Primary Academy.

The pupil wrote this piece in response to the shared reading text: The Enemy. The remit was to write a discursive text (in the form of a balanced argument) discussing who was the most effective leader in The Enemy.

We have chosen this piece of work because contains many devices that make an effective discursive text.

Friday 8th November 2019

I am learning to write a balanced argument about effective leadership.

Is Arran the most effective leader?

To start off with, a leader is a person who is confident and motivating. A true leader must be positive and treat everyone fairly. Some qualities of a leader is intelligence, patience and inspiring. Speaking of Arran, people often see him as an organised leader, though he can also be quite selfish at times. This balanced argument aims to give you a better understanding of peoples opinions. Is Arran an effective leader?

In this section there is/are:

1. A clear introduction
2. Rhetorical question to draw the reader in 'Is Arran an effective leader?'
3. Time connectives 'firstly' to sequence writing
4. Using evidence from the text to support an opinion. 'An example of this is...'
5. Discursive phrases 'There is no doubt that'

Firstly, most people think that Arran is a kind, responsible sh boy. He cares alot about other children as he goes off scavenging just to give and share it out (food) between all of the younger children. Arran is always able to sort out problems, its very easy for him to organise everyone when something goes wrong. He can be very determined, he never wants to let anyone down. An example of this because is when he got triblly bitten by a grown up, but he still stood up for the other. This also makes his life risky to save other people. There is no doubt that Arran treats everyone the same, he has never not-shared his resources. The fact that little kids look up to him shows that Arran has true loyalty.