Using Questioning as a Teaching Tool

The Art of Questioning

How can you accurately assess a learner’s knowledge without discouraging the learner? Below are a few strategies you may consider incorporating into your questioning strategies.

**Align**
Confirm learners understand the basics first. Ask questions that will assess rudimentary skills, then build depth of questions.

**Scaffold**
- Learner asks a question correctly → follow-up with a more challenging question
- Learner asks a question incorrectly → follow-up with a related question for learner to think through
Ask an open-ended question such as, “Tell me what you know about…” to fill in any knowledge gaps.

**Reassess**
If a learner originally answers a question incorrectly, follow-up at a later time. Ensure they have mastered the key point.

**Rephrase**
Sometimes a learner may know the answer but is unclear on what you are asking. Reflect on what you’re assessing and see if the question can be worded differently.

**Use Peers**
If you ask a learner a question and they do not know the answer, allow them to use their peers as a resource. Always circle back to the original learner and ask a related question to ensure he/she has mastered the material.

**Encourage**
Remind your learners they can ask questions! You create the welcoming learning environment. Reinforce the concept that learning is continuous.

Questions? Contact comfacdev@ucf.edu

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