

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

Methods of Classroom Instruction

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Topics

- Motivation for Good Teaching
- Principles of Instruction
- The Use of Questions

Motivation for Teaching Well

- You don't want to be a “war story”
- You want to be remembered for good reasons
- Your students are a reflection of you
- You don't want to be hit by a plane



Principles of Instruction

- Students learn

- In the classroom
learning

- Principles of
management

- At best
– facilitate

- At worst
– Prevent you from screwing up learning



process of

for Learning

called teaching)

Interest

- Create and maintain interest given the “2 minute rule”
- This can be done through
 - Explaining advantages of knowing something
 - Instructor Enthusiasm
 - Appealing to many senses
 - Competition, games
 - Surprise
 - Voice variation
 - Eye contact
 - Questioning Technique



Comprehension



- You must
 - Start at the level of understanding
 - Proceed at the rate of comprehension
- Go from easy to difficult
- Review what students already know
- Review what is being presented
- Be aware of student expressions



Emphasis

- Emphasis placed on what is important
- Not everything is important
- Repetition == emphasis
- Examples == emphasis
- Review == emphasis
- Handouts == emphasis
- Did I mention the importance of emphasis?

Emphasis

- The laborious use of meaningless words flusters and confuses the average student. If we say too much, how do we know what to do with our eyes open and not see wonder why that pest that we will have to see us again. We work by hiding words that seem to work with a broken



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things we say but students don't know keeping them talking. I really put up with us in how you will never have all remember them how emphasis in this mess of things on a computer

Participation

- There must be meaningful participation
- Questioning technique promotes participation
- Move participation around the class



Accomplishment



- Must feel like they have achieved something after the lesson
- Communicate how you felt the class did
- Praise good work but always provide feedback

Confirmation

- You must know what they know by confirming that they know it
- Avoids misunderstandings
- Ask questions
- Get students to explain
- Confirmation happens
 - At the beginning
 - In the middle
 - At the end



ICEPAC

- The principles of instruction are
 - Interest
 - Comprehension
 - Emphasis
 - Participation
 - Accomplishment
 - Confirmation
- They are mutually supporting
 - When a student participates, emphasis happens, generating interest enhancing comprehension which you confirm providing a sense of accomplishment to the student.

Questions

- Asking questions supports the principles of instruction
- Asking questions requires practice as you
 - must think quickly
 - be in front of the class



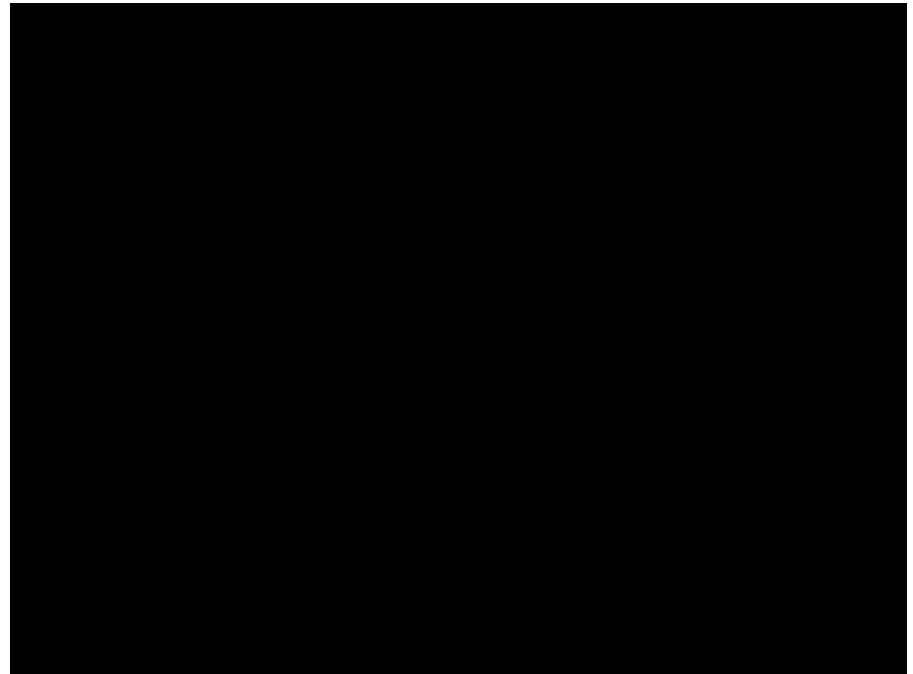
The Purpose of Questions

- Promote Mental Activity
- Arouse and maintain interest
- Guide thought
- Evaluate learning
- Promote problem solving
- Guide lesson progression



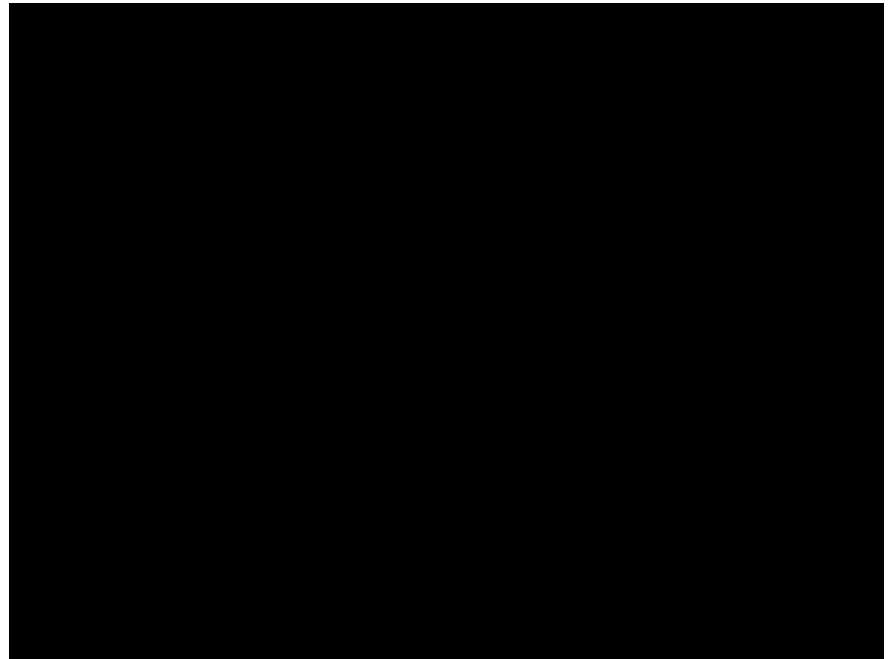
Lead off

- Directed at the group at beginning of lesson or main point
 - Designed to generate discussion.



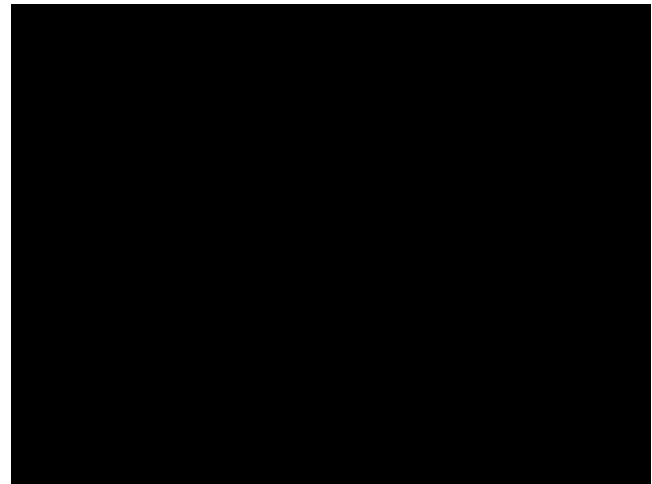
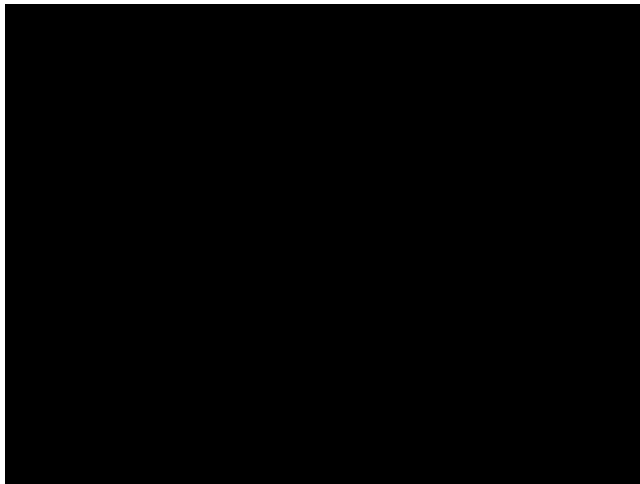
Follow up

- Used to probe the student's thoughts
 - Encourages further thinking.



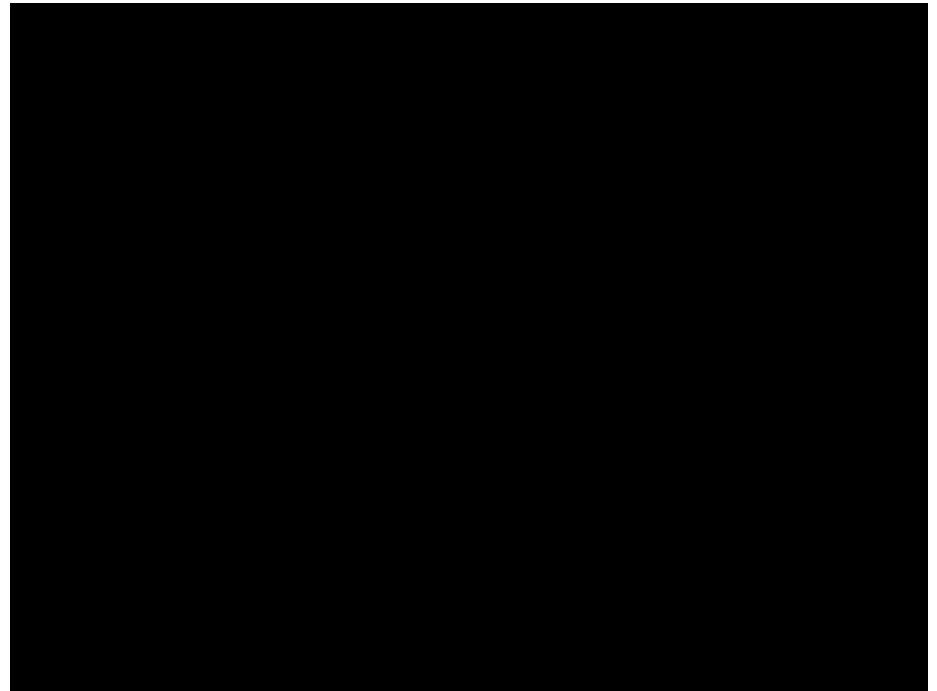
Direct

- Asked of a specific individual
 - Restores attention



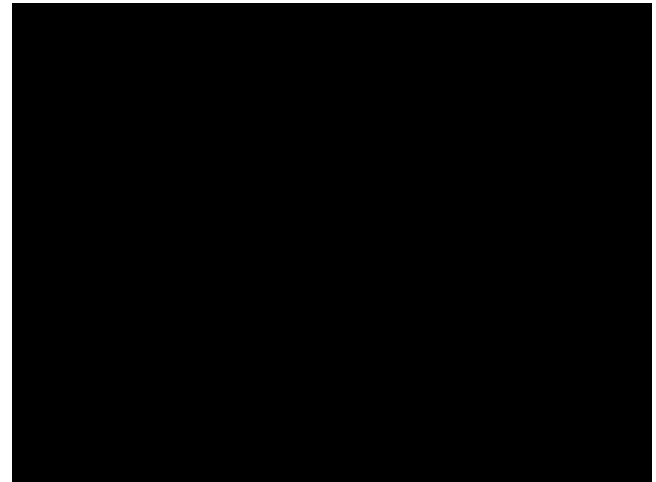
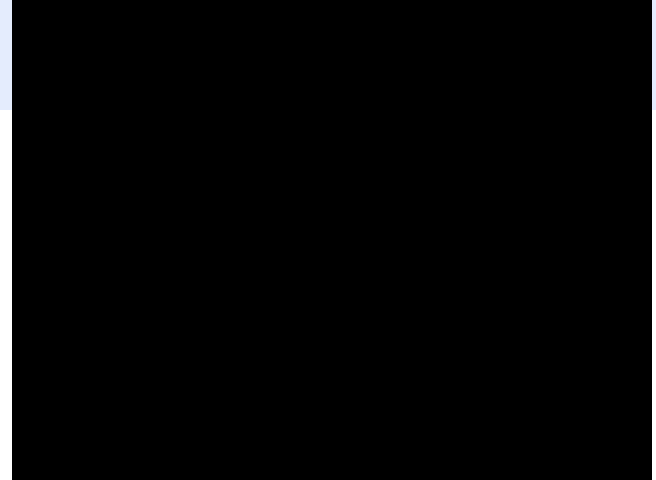
Overhead

- Asked of the group
 - Creates interest and fear



Reverse and Relay

- Returning the student's question back at them or to others
 - Promotes discussion (but be careful)



Qualities of good questions

- Easily understood
 - Brief yet complete with clear meaning
- Composed of Common Words
 - Avoid jargon and technical language if possible
- Thought Provoking
 - Avoid obvious answers and those whose answers can be guessed
- Related to Major Teaching Points

Procedure for Asking Questions

- Ask the question
- Pause
- Indicate the student who should answer
- Listen to the answer
- Confirm the correct response

Student Questions

- Encourage questions
- Occasionally pass a question on to other students
 - Not too often!
- Reject questions not related to the lesson
- Don't bluff
- Ensure everyone hears the question

Conclusion

- The principles of Instruction are mutually supporting concepts for managing learning
- Every lesson should contain elements of these principles
- Questions and questioning technique are a good way of achieving ICEPAC