

Course Title: Using Questions for Better Learning

Course Format: online course (site: <https://acsieu.org/moodle>)

Course Language: English

Participants: educators at any level

Length of Course: 4 weeks (~3-4 hours/week of study)

Hours*: Virtual classroom learning activities: 3 hours
Instructional videos: 1 hour
Interaction with other participants in forums: 5 hours
Teaching, self-assessment and peer-assessment: 3 hours
**Estimated. Actual hours required will vary depending on participant background.*

Instructor: Paul Madsen, Educational Consultant, ACSI Europe, paul_madsen@acsi.org

Course Description

Using questions in our classrooms can lead to significant improvement in student learning and retention and also help students develop a biblical lens for learning and life. Why should I use questions in teaching? Which types of questions are most effective? How do questions promote a biblical approach to learning? How do I engage my students in a quality process of asking good questions? This course provides a platform for questioning our motivation in using questions, investigating resources to improve our use of questions, connecting our use of questions to clear curricular objectives, and applying what we learn through new instructional strategies.

Course Purpose

Questions are an essential part of the learning environment, but teachers may be unaware of the extent to which questions can shape and deepen the learning experience. As we examine our current use of questions and apply ancient and modern strategies for using questions, we will develop instructional strategies that will challenge both us and our students and inspire quality learning experiences.

Course Objectives

Students (participants) will...

1. Identify the benefits of using good questions in the teaching environment
2. Explore biblical foundations for the use of questions and their role in Jesus' teachings
3. Understand the connections between questions and critical thinking skills
4. Implement different questioning strategies for use in their subject area
5. Develop a lesson or unit plan to improve the questioning skills of their students

Required Texts/Other Resources

Online articles and resources will be used for this course.

Course Outline

Topic	Instruction Methods	Focus Topic	Activities
1	Reading: online resource	Motivating Questions	- Forum discussion: Personal introduction - "What questions have been most meaningful or inspiring to you?" - Video: introduction to course



	Video presentation with PowerPoint presented by the course instructor Self-assessment		- Forum discussion: How do I currently use questions in my teaching practice? - Reading: from criticalthinking.org (Objectives 1, 3)
2	Video presentation with PowerPoint presented by the course instructor Virtual classroom learning activities Reading: various online resources Developing a personal question toolbox	Investigating Questions	- Investigation: Bloom's Taxonomy, The Socratic Dialogue & Jesus' use of Questions - Forum discussion: Which idea (or ideas) about questions were most challenging for you in our study this week? How could you use this idea to develop your own "Question toolbox" for use in your classroom? (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
3	Video presentation with PowerPoint presented by the course instructor Virtual classroom learning activities Reading: various online resources Developing a strategy for improved use of questions	Connecting Questions	- Connecting to the curriculum - Connecting to values and beliefs - Connecting to a biblical worldview - Forum discussion: How do you know what your students believe? How can you use questions to help them connect their beliefs to a clearer picture of who God is? Which questions may help them grow in their responsibility to use knowledge in your subject area for the benefit of their peers and their community (and for God's glory)? (Objectives 3, 4)
4	Video instruction Implementing a strategy for quality use of questions in a lesson or unit plan Self and peer assessments	Applying Questions	- Submit a Lesson or Unit Plan: Designing questions for better learning and developing students' questioning skills - Peer-assessment of lesson plan - Self-assessment of learning (Objectives 3, 4, 5)

Assessment

Task	Objective/s	Week	% Weight
Contribution to the course discussion forum by a) Creating forum posts that thoughtfully address the questions outlined in the course. b) Responding to the forum posts of other participants by making comments and asking reflective questions.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Ongoing	20%
Investigation: explore tools to develop a personal question toolbox	2, 4	2	10%
Investigation: evaluate strategies to connect learning to the content of the curriculum and a biblical worldview	3, 4	3	20%
Assignment: Develop a lesson or unit plan that demonstrates understanding of how to use questions effectively and guide students in developing their own questions for learning Peer-assessment is also required for completion of this task	3, 4, 5	4	30%
Self-assessment at the conclusion of the course	3, 4	4	20%