



MAKING STUDENTS THINK

Sharing Good Practice: Learning & Teaching CLPL

In this issue:

- Definition
- Debunking Misconceptions
- Trialed Strategies
- Trusted Techniques
- Professional Reading References

What is “Making Students Think”?

When students are equipped with the abilities to acquire, practice, and apply their knowledge, learning and teaching are at their most successful. Making pupils think is primarily accomplished through effective questions. Effective questioning keeps students interested, helps them recall information from long-term memory, and allows the teacher to continually assess the students' comprehension.

Debunking Misconceptions

Strategies for getting pupils to think can be employed with smaller student groups; large classes are not required. These techniques can be used in small bursts or as bite sized tasks and don't necessarily need to be applied on a large-scale basis.

“Memory is the residue of thought”

- Dan Willingham

Trialed Strategies

As a group we looked at the following “making students think” strategies and how they could be used within our subjects:

- Cold Calling
- Show-me boards
- Step Inside

Staff members tested these methods during lessons for four weeks to determine what worked and what did not, then they reviewed the results through observations and professional discussion.

Areas of Strength in the School

- L. Finlayson — Art & Design
- L. Morrison — Social Subjects
- N. Campbell — Science
- R. Little — Business



MAKING STUDENTS THINK

Sharing Good Practice: Learning & Teaching CLPL

Trusted Techniques for Making Students

Think

Show-me Boards
Cold Call
Pause
Bounce
Catch
On the Hook
Drill Down
Homing In
Say it Again, Louder
Amplify
I'll Come Back to You
Instruct Memorisation

Suggested Reading List

The following articles and publications provide details on how to put into practice the "making pupils think" tactics that have been mentioned in this issue, as well as additional useful strategies, in the classroom:

The Teaching Delusion 3 – Bruce Robertson – p. 139

How Learning Happens – Paul Kirschner & Carl Hendrick – Chapter 24: Making Things Visible

What Does This Look Like in the Classroom? – Carl Hendrick & Robin Macpherson – Chapter 7: Classroom Talk and Questioning

Principles of Instruction – Barak Rosenshine

Teach to the Top – Megan Mansworth – Chapter 6: Thinking hard and challenging students conceptually

Is Everyone Thinking? What are they all thinking about? This is THE Key – Tom Sherrington

The Capital of Australia: The Power of Show-me Boards, blog post, Bruce Robertson

John Hattie on Visible Learning, John Hattie, YouTube:

5 Quick Wins to Help Transform Your Teaching, blog post, Bruce Robertson

Great Teaching: The Power of Questioning, blog post, Tom Sherrington

**All books available in the staff professional reading library. Blogs and publications can be found by clicking [here](#)*