

# Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy (TEAL): Deeper Learning through Questioning

## *Summary and Objectives*

**Audience:** Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructors

**Summary:** Questioning is a powerful teaching approach. When teachers ask higher-order questions and give students opportunities to think critically and to develop deep explanations, learning is enhanced. Equally important as teacher questions are student self-questions. Self-questioning can guide learning and help students monitor their progress. This course focuses on both teacher questioning and student self-questioning.

**Objectives:**

- Identify teacher questions that promote student critical thinking
- Describe strategies for encouraging students to use self-questions
- Explain how teacher-led questions and student self-questions can lead to deeper learning

## *Course Logistics*

**Format:** facilitated, asynchronous, online

**Estimated Completion Time:** approximately 2 hours per week; 6 hours total

**Expectations:** Participants are expected to read and post at least once in each of the course discussion forums; submit the required journal activities; watch recorded presentations; read the background readings and resource pages of the course; set a goal for their professional growth; and complete assignments and the final evaluation. Download a Certificate of Completion upon successful completion of course requirements.

## *Course Topics*

**Let's get started**

- *Journal:* Rate your knowledge: What do you know about questioning strategies that promote deeper student learning— both teacher questions and student self-questions?
- *Forum:* What do you want to know about deeper learning through questioning?
- *Forum:* Discuss your personal experiences with questioning—either as a teacher or a learner.
- *Reading:* Face-to-face learning vs. online learning

## What is deeper learning through questioning?

- *Readings:* TEAL fact sheet on deeper learning through questioning; NRC Report on Education for Life and Work; and articles on asking effective questions in the math classroom
- *Video:* Teacher questioning for deeper student learning
- *Video:* Self-questioning for deeper learning
- *Video:* Deeper learning in math: Self-questioning, monitoring, & reflection
- *Forum:* Why do teachers ask questions of their students?

## Deeper learning through questioning: Let's put it in context

- *Forum:* Question the author
- *Forum:* Encouraging self-questioning
- *Video:* Strategies for summarization
- *Video:* Questioning: Motivating discourse in the mathematics classroom
- *Wiki:* Shifting the balance of responsibility
- *Wiki:* Flexible groupings: Share your ideas

## Assignments: Choose one

- General: Model self-questioning and reflect
- General: Design activities that require depth of knowledge & reflect
- Math: Promote mathematical thinking & discussion with effective questioning strategies & reflect

## Self-assessment

- *Questionnaire:* Answer 10 questions (select writing or math self-assessment)

## Take time to reflect on your own goals and progress

- *Journal:* Set a personal teaching goal for using questioning strategies in your classes

## Wrap-up and summary

- *Video:* Course recap of deeper learning through questioning
- *Forum:* How can questioning strategies for deeper learning help improve writing or math instruction?

**For information on course availability,  
contact the LINCS Professional Development Center at [pdcenter@lincs.ed.gov](mailto:pdcenter@lincs.ed.gov)**

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