Asking Effective Questions
For Learning, Engagement, and Collaboration
Bloom’s Taxonomy

**Purpose**
To structure classroom learning strategically, with attention to developing questions that allow for growth and give students a chance to show what they know and learn over time.

**Outcomes**
- Develop higher level thinking skills in relation to what the instructor is teaching.
- Apply knowledge in new ways.
- Challenge what students know.
- Students should be able to defend what they learn.

Bloom’s is a problematic framework in education, but it can help instructors think through how they might move their students from basic recall or retrieval into more complex thinking about a topic or problem. Keeping in mind that knowledge, reinforced by recall and retrieval practice, is a necessary precondition to implementing those higher-level thinking exercises.
Developing Questions

▷ Working together in groups of 2–4, choose a topic and develop questions for each of Bloom’s 6 categories.
▷ When done, please post your questions to the following Google Form...
PLAY ALONG!

https://goo.gl/forms/OYIA2NGfof3vAyji2
Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him (or her) and let him (or her) know that you trust him (or her).

~ Booker T. Washington
Engaged Learning

- “Minute Papers”
- Persuade the Prof.
- Believing/Doubting

In each of these examples, students might first need to understand the language (or genre) of the discipline. Using examples, and modeling, early in the semester can help students feel more confident in participating.
Examples

“Minute Papers”
The role of rhetoric in a given situation is typified by kairos (the opportune moment) and decorum (the ways you present yourself given a particular time and place). In one minute, tell me which element you find to be most important to effective rhetoric: kairos or decorum? WHY?

Persuade the Prof.
Folks in History argue that those who ignore the lessons we learned from the past are doomed to repeat them. What moment in time (from the lectures) provides the best example of this axiom?

Believing/Doubting
Thesis: Donald Trump’s liberal use of Twitter as a means to communicate with the world is a significant departure from the more stately rhetoric we’ve seen past presidents use.
Developing Activities

▷ Working individually, choose one of the questions from the previous exercise to apply to one (or more) of the engaged learning examples.

▷ When done, please post your activity to the following Google Form and share out with your group...
PLAY ALONG!

https://goo.gl/forms/JEz9lWzJoZllx0mn2
The one great thing about continuing collaboration is that they know you. And if you’re really lucky, they believe in you and think that your talent has some unending bounds.

~ Mark Ruffalo
Collaborative Learning

- Round Robin
- Word Webs
- Ship-It

These techniques are suitable for small to large groups, and can be utilized in a lecture hall or classroom setting.
Examples

Round Robin / Table
What are some clinical signs of disease in cows?

Extension: Rank from least to most serious.

Word Webs
Animal production systems include a number of variables that need to be considered in the keeping, caring, and marketing of animals. List the variables included in these systems, linking them with explanations of how the pieces fit together.

Ship-It (Send-A-Problem)
Ranchers and farmers depend on veterinarians to ensure herd health and a safe food supply. But many rural areas lack access to veterinary care. What is the best way to address this problem and implement the solution?
Working Collaboratively

In small groups, discuss:

- How could you utilize one (or more) of these activities in your class?
- What challenges could you anticipate?
- Do you have ideas to mediate those challenges?
Please share!

https://goo.gl/forms/foAGLLLSa6oCm2H53
Thanks for playing!

Questions, Comments, Concerns:  
Johnna Lash  
johnnanoel@wsu.edu