

APPLYING QUESTIONING TECHNIQUES: TEACHER/TRAINER ROLE CARD

Please read this carefully.

The task

As the teacher or trainer, you've asked your group of learners to read and carry out a prepared exercise. You'll be asking them questions about the exercise in order to check and develop their learning.

Materials for the exercise

You may want to use the space below to note down all the materials you'll require for the activity.

The facilitator will have supplied you with the materials you need for the exercise.

Please note that the purpose of the exercise and any associated tasks is only creating an opportunity for the questioning exercise. The object of the exercise is to ensure that all members have a common learning experience on which to be questioned.

Learning objectives

You may want to use this space to write in your learning objectives for the exercise as you would in a real teaching and learning session.

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Your role

Your role is as follows:

Stage 1 – group exercise

- To observe the group of learners whilst they're doing the exercise.
- To devise questions and prepare questioning techniques to use with the group once they've completed the exercise.

Stage 2 – role-play

- To use those questions and questioning techniques to check and develop the group's understanding and learning.
- To reflect on the effectiveness of the techniques in the plenary session after the role-play.

You should think about the following points before the role-play:

- How will you find out what each learner has learned/understood? (Don't forget to look at your learning objectives for the exercise.)
- How might you develop their learning/understanding further?
- If certain questioning techniques are not working, how will you adapt your style to suit the needs of the learners in the group?

Think about how you might adapt your approach if:

- one member dominates in the group;
- some members don't participate;
- one member gives one-word answers;
- a member gives a completely wrong answer.

This is your opportunity to exercise, and experiment with, your questioning skills. Your aim is to find out the depth and breadth of learning by all group members on the basis of your objectives.

Plenary discussion

Once the role-play is completed you'll be asked to reflect on the techniques you used and how you feel the learners responded. The learners will compare their impressions with yours. The observer will also provide feedback from the notes he/she has taken. You should work as a team to evaluate the questions and techniques used.

Did the group achieve any of the learning objectives?

Did you find out whether all members of the group had achieved the learning objectives?