

Powerful Coaching Questions for Teaching and Learning



Don't try to cover every aspect of the session; too much information will overwhelm the teacher/lecturer. Choose a few critical incidents to focus on which will allow you to explore them more in-depth. These can be either areas for development OR strengths. (Remember that part being a good teacher/lecturer is recognising what you are good at and playing to your strengths where possible. No one is good at everything!)

Pre-observation discussion questions:

- What would you like to achieve from the observation?
- Which areas of teaching/lecturing do you feel most confident with?
- Which areas of your teaching/lecturing would you most like to improve?
- Is there any particular aspect of the lesson/lecture you would like me to focus on to help you explore further?
- How do you prepare for lessons/lectures?
- How do you differentiate for students' needs in the lesson/lecture?
- What is your key aim for the lesson/lecture I will observe? How will you know when you have achieved that aim?
- What is the most important part of the lesson/lecture I will be observing?

Post observation discussion questions:

- Did you feel you achieved your key aim?
- What did you feel was the most successful part of the lesson/lecture?
- How does the lesson/lecture relate to work the students have done or will do outside the session? How are students made aware of that relationship?
- I noticed X (X = critical incident). What was your aim with that? Did you feel it was successful?

Planning for the future questions

- If you could teach that lesson/lecture again, what might you do differently?
- Which areas of teaching/lecturing you would like to develop? What resources are available to you? What support do you require?
- What will you take away from this observation experience?

Clarification prompts to promote deeper reflection:

- Why?
- How does that work?
- Tell me more.
- Can you elaborate on that?
- Can you develop that idea further?
- What other ideas/ thoughts do you have about that?
- What resonates for you?
- Are there other options?