

Clarifying and Probing Questions

Clarifying Questions are simple questions of fact. They are concerned with the details needed to understand the situation. The presenter should be able to answer these questions easily. If the presenter struggles to answer a question, it is most likely a probing question.

Examples of clarifying questions:

- What do you want the students to be able to do?
- What behaviors are you targeting?
- What class? Ages of students? Level?
- How much time will this take?
- What skills are involved?
- What have you already done to address this problem?
- What students are successful?
- What types of data will you collect? When will you collect it?

Probing questions should make the presenter think more deeply. They should not suggest action but work only to make the presenter think about options. These are not simple yes or no questions. Good probing questions allow for multiple responses, move thinking from reaction to reflection, encourage taking another perspective, never suggest or place blame.

Examples of probing questions:

- Why are your students successful/unsuccessful?
- Why did you choose?
- What will you do with....?
- Will you be able to measure?
- What fears do you have?
- How do you think your students will respond?
- What needs to change?
- What would it look like if...?
- When have you done something similar and how did it go?
- What do you want?
- What's another way you might...?
- How is....different from....?
- What is your intention?
- How do you feel...?
- What is the connection between... and ...?
- Where do you see problems?
- What are the benefits?