

The Question Grid

Questioning is an essential part of a good/outstanding lesson. Based on the premise that good questions elicit good answers, the grid below is a very useful tool for a teacher to use when planning a lesson. The grid helps the teacher plan for questions that will range from the closed (knowing) questions to the 'big question' about the wider implications of the lesson. The example below is for an English lesson (isn't it always?)

The 'knowing' question.

Usually closed, with one obvious answer

The 'understanding' question.

Allows students to express opinions and think about alternatives. A much 'deeper' question.

	One answer	Many answers
From the source	Who killed Tybalt?	Who was responsible for Tybalt's death
Not from the source	How many deaths are there in Shakespeare's plays?	Is killing always wrong?

The 'tangential' question. Could take you off on a different path. The teacher could plan for this or the students could come up with these questions in order to deepen their knowledge of the topic/satisfy their curiosity.

The 'big' question. Put the topic into context. This questions begins to explain to the students why they are studying the topic (often helps them to align their 'moral compass'.

Using this grid will help you to ask a full range of questions. Try it out at the beginning of the next academic year. The more you use it, the more natural asking these kinds of questions will become.