

Catch and Pass

100 questions to ask your students during discussion

Click here to learn more about Catch and Pass: <https://bit.ly/2Hkhd61>

“When I ask this question, I’m helping them to...”

Make connections

- How does that connect with...?
- How does this fit?
- How might you connect these ideas to what we’ve been studying?
- What links might exist with other subjects?
- How does this extend your thinking?
- Where else might that idea apply?
- What similarities are there between . . . and . . . ?
- What’s the difference between . . . and . . . ?
- How do you think the idea of . . . can be applied to . . . ?
- How does the idea of . . . challenge what you already know or think about . . . ?
- How does this relate to what we’ve been talking about?
- How might these ideas be linked?
- How does your thinking compare to [someone else’s] thinking?
- How do you connect to this personally?

Theorise

- What explanation do you have for this?
- Why is it that way?
- Why did it happen that way?
- What does it mean?
- What general principles might be at play here?
- What big idea connects all of this together?

Justify

- What makes you say that?
- Why do you think that?
- How might you defend your strategy/answer/conclusion?
- Can you tell us what evidence you have to support your conclusions?
- How do you know this?
- Why?...why?...why?
- How can you be sure of what you are saying?
- Can you explain how you worked that out?

Wonder

- What questions does that raise for you?
- What’s the most remarkable thing here?
- What does that make you wonder?
- What surprised you most in that?
- What are curious about?

Consider different viewpoints

- What's another way of looking at this?
- What's another way of solving this?
- How might someone else see that?
- What's another explanation?
- How else might you represent your thinking?
- How might someone from [a different time] see this?
- How might someone from [a different place] see this?

Explore constructedness

- Why has this been put together this way?
- What's the purpose here?
- What is particularly clever, effective or ingenious here?
- How do the parts all relate to the whole?
- How has this been constructed to appear 'natural'?
- How are you being positioned or manipulated by this?

Capture the essence

- What's the big idea at the heart of this?
- What are the key concepts that are worth holding on to?
- How could you say that in fewer words?
- What is the most important point?

Be metacognitive

- What insights and/or confusions are you experiencing right now?
- What was the hardest thing for you to grasp when you came up with that idea?... What's still confusing?... What makes it confusing?
- What might you learn from making that great mistake?
- What's the question behind that question?
- Why do you think I asked that question?
- What's the most surprising thing about . . . ?
- What's the most familiar thing about . . . ?

Explore causality

- How does . . . relate to . . . ?
- What's the cause of...?
- What do you think happened before?
- What might happen next?
- What are the consequences of this?
- How does . . . affect . . . ?
- If that happened, what might be the consequences?
- Are the implications of this acceptable?

Explore issues of truth

- What do you believe is true here?
- How do we know that is true?
- To what extent is that true?
- How do you know that source is credible?
- Is that always true or just in this case?
- Is that true for everyone?

Be objective

- What other explanation might there be?
- How do you know you're right?
- What evidence is there that might contradict your point of view?
- How might someone challenge you on this?
- What is the counter-argument for this?
- How might you persuade yourself of a different view?
- What doesn't seem to fit your conclusions? . . . Why doesn't it fit? . . . Is there another angle you should look for here? . . . Is it OK that some parts don't fit with the whole?
- How might your own life, experiences and values have influenced your thinking here? . . . How might someone with different beliefs and values see this differently?
- In what ways are you biased?
- Is this always the case?
- How might you test this?
- What assumptions might you be making?
- Is there reason to doubt this evidence?

Evaluate

- To what extent do you agree?
- How effective is this?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?
- All opinions considered, where do you stand on this?
- What are your measures of effectiveness/success?
- How might you ensure your measures of success are reliable?

Elaborate

- Talk more about that...
- Tell us more about...
- What else? . . . and what else? . . . and what else?
- How do you define [word student has just used]?

Reflect

- What are the big ideas/takeaways here?
- What have you learned from these experiences? About yourself? Others? The subject?
- How does this relate to what you already knew about the topic? . . . How has your thinking changed/deepened/broadened?
- Why does that strike you as important?
- How does that make you feel?
- What is something you found interesting?