

# Two–Minute Tips

## This Week's Topic: Questions That Deepen or Extend Knowledge

Asking questions that deepen or extend knowledge increases participation and encourages active learning. As a facilitator, when prompting participants to explore concepts and ideas, you're modeling a thought process that helps them reflect on what they've learned and that they can apply to educational and work settings.<sup>1</sup>

### Practice Tips

Here are examples of prompts that can deepen and extend participants' knowledge.<sup>2</sup>

#### Extending Knowledge and Understanding

**Example:** What? Who? When? What is an example of X? What is meant by...? What is another way of explaining...? Can you describe X in your own words? What was the most important idea/lesson/strategy you learned in this activity?

#### Application

**Example:** How is X used? What does it relate to? How is this related to what you learned in school? What other ways could you use this skill or idea in your life?

#### Analysis

**Example:** Why? How? What is the reason X happened? What made you come to that conclusion? What do you think caused...? How do X and Y fit together? How do you know that?

#### Synthesis

**Example:** If X happens, then what do you think will happen next? What does the theory predict will happen? What are your conclusions based on what you learned? How does X relate to Y? What might happen if you do X? If we do Y would we get a different result?

#### Evaluation

**Example:** Is this effective? Why or why not? Is this reasonable or not and why?

#### Clarification

**Example:** Can you explain what you meant by X?

### Tips in Action!

[Watch](#) staff at Launch at Maple Elementary use questions that deepen and extend knowledge.

### Want more two-minute tips?

Check out:

<https://depts.washington.edu/cgel/expanded-learning-opportunities/>

There you will find the latest tip, an archive of past tips, and a discussion board to connect with peers!

<sup>1</sup> The Teaching Center. (2019). *Asking questions to improve learning*. St. Louis, MO: Washington University in St. Louis. <http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/resources/teaching-methods/participation/asking-questions-to-improve-learning/>

<sup>2</sup> Open Learn. (1999-2018). *Extending and developing your thinking skills*. United Kingdom: The Open University. <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/extending-and-developing-your-thinking-skills/content-section-6>