

GOAL – Getting the students doing the thinking in Geography

Transforming tasks strategy: From tell to ask

Technique Example	Before	After	Reflection: Why and how?
Socratic questioning Ask questions that help students dig deeper.	 Water is not equally distributed across the continents of the world. 1. Using this map colour the natural water sources blue. 2. Use the table of data to find out about the water resources of Australia. 3. Compare with one Asian and one African country. 	 Look carefully at the image. 1. What do you notice? 2. What might be the purpose of the big grey tank? 3. Who could these people be? Where have they come from? Where do you think they might live? Where might this place be? 4. What are these people doing? Why might they do this? What makes you think that? 5. How do we do this (get water) in Australia? 6. How is this the same, or different, in Africa and in Asia? 7. What assumptions have you made? 1. Explore your school and decide on the important features of it. 	WHY would you ask students to in So students notice the details of the ph it might raise for them. It positions them hypothesising about these questions. HOW does this develop powerful/exp Students learn to really notice information what they already know and make mult They also justify their ideas when quest (For example WHY would you ask students to do show it on a map of the school?
Ask students to try their ideas first.	Make a map of your school for students who are new to the school to use.You will need:1. A map of your school2. Images of features of the school.Place the images of the features of your school in the appropriate locations on the map.	 Explore your school and decide on the important leaders on t. Photograph those features. Arrange the features relative to each other, in order to make a map for new students to use. Think about: What photos should you take? What important features of the school do new students need the most? What would you need to put on your map? Could someone new to the school use it without help? What might be needed to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the map? Can you think of a way to test out and refine your map? 	To develop skills of observing features of probable needs of students using the m HOW does this develop powerful/exp Students learn to try their own ideas on approach this task before being told ho surroundings, comparing and identifying
Use dialogue Ask students to interact and build meaning through learning conversations.	'Only leave your footprints behind,' is offered as guidance for those tourists visiting an ecologically, or culturally sensitive site. With this in mind, investigate the physical and human geography of Uluru. Write a report for the tourist bureau of the Northern Territory to consider some ways tourists might impact on this area.	 'Only leave your footprints behind', is offered as guidance for those tourists visiting an ecologically, or culturally sensitive site. Discuss Think, pair, share followed by a Community of Inquiry re: Should I climb Uluru (Ayers Rock)? (Pros and cons) Or Survey those who have, and haven't, climbed the rock to find out why they did/didn't climb it. What do you think? Consider the different ponts of view, and decide whether you would choose to climb Uluru. Explain your reasoning.	 WHY would you Ask students to in conversations about the ethics and of To develop skills of clarifying, synthesis through conversations with others. HOW does this develop powerful/exp Students learn to appreciate and exploring grapple with challenging questions. Studiscussions, clarify their thinking and to appreciate and to appreciate and the second seco
Student voice Ask students to decide how they might do this best.	Students are given a map of the local shopping centre and asked to do an audit on this location in terms of access for disabled people.	What do you think? How might you go about assessing a place nearby for how well it caters to disabled people? What might you need to find out? How can you be sure of your ideas? How might you share this with others, or demonstrate your learning? What improvements might you suggest? Convince me that they are improvements.	 WHY would you Ask students how the disabled? To develop skills of observation, critical an investigation. HOW does this develop powerful/exp Students learn to make choices about to use. They make critical judgements base Suggesting improvements involves students.

Transforming tasks | WORKSHOP 03



interpret a photograph by posing questions? photograph, what it might mean and what questions em to question what might be happening and to start

expert learners?

ation, think deeply about it, make comparisons with ultiple suggestions about what it might be telling us. estioned in a socratic way.

Examples of Socratic questions can be found online ple: http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs2104/Summer2014/Notes/SocraticQ.pdf)

decide what information is important, and how to

s of things they notice in the field, analysing the map, and explaining the decisions they make.

expert learners?

on what they might need to know and how they could how it is usually done. They learn to really notice their ing the most important information.

b interact and build meaning through learning d considerations of using a culturally sensitive site? sising and refining ideas of a variety of perspectives,

expert learners?

lore different ideas, and work with their peers to Students learn to consider alternatives through to develop reasons for their choices.

ow they might assess a place's ability to cater for

al thinking, decision making and refining the process of

expert learners?

ut their learning and to define the criteria they might based on stated standards and justify their conclusions. cudents learning to think creatively.



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Socratic questioning Ask questions that help students dig deeper.	 Increase in average weekly expenditure on goods and services, 2003-04 to 2009-10. Answer the questions using information from the graph. What has increased the most? What has increased the least? Suggest 2 possible reasons why this might have occurred. 	 Increase in average weekly expenditure on goods and services, 2003-04 to 2009-10. 1. What do you notice about this graph? 2. What story is this graph telling us? What are your reasons for saying that? What questions do you have? 3. What might have caused this to happen? 4. What other information might be of use to help answer these questions? 6. What information would change your mind? Source: ABS http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6530.0Main%20Features20009-10/200endocumen&tabaname-Summary				WHY would you Ask questions the graph? To develop skills of really noticing and HOW does this develop powerful/e Students learn to question how and we (For example)	
Explore before explain Ask students to try their ideas first.	Using the local maps provided, identify the location of play equipment and open green areas, playgrounds etc. What proportion of the local area has open spaces? Consider the information and justify your answer to the question: <i>'Are there enough playground and recreation areas</i> <i>available?'</i>	Explore your local neighbourhood <i>Are there enough playground a</i> Walk around the area to be inver- issue and the types of information Plan to undertake fieldwork inclu- and data gathering from local re Consider the information and de need in order to propose an ans	 WHY would you Ask students to sufficient play spaces, and what inf To develop skills of observing, develop analysing what else they need to know HOW does this develop powerful/e Students learn to try out their own ide told how it is usually done. They learn identifying the most important information 				
Use dialogue Ask students to interact and build meaning through learning conversations.	 Find the meaning for the following terminology: Infiltration Surface run off Groundwater flow Transpiration. Write the definitions into your book. 	Surface run off Groundwater flow Transpiration Gro	on a group me rd I fration face runoff undwater flow hspiration	aning for the	e Group Ideas	WHY would you Ask students to through learning conversations? To develop skills of clarifying and refin HOW does this develop powerful/e Students learn to acknowledge and e their thinking and to consider multiple	
Student voice Ask students to decide how they might do this best.	Use a variety of Internet resources to examine the question, 'What is it like to be a refugee?' Consider the issues and concerns facing refugees.	'What is it like to be a refugee How could you find out what it is Is there only one way to be a ref How could you demonstrate wh How will you know if you have c and concerns facing refugees?	WHY would you Ask students ho To develop skills of decision making at multiple viewpoints. Reflecting on and HOW does this develop powerful/et Students learn to make choices about gather information. They justify their co for credibility and bias.				



that help students dig deeper when analysing a

d thinking deeply, questioning and justifying their ideas.

expert learners?

why and begin to hypothesise about the reasons.

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to develop their ideas first about whether there are nformation they might need?

oping questions, analysing what they notice in the field, ow and explaining their conclusions.

expert learners?

leas on how they could approach this task, before being rn to really notice their surroundings, comparing and nation.

to interact and build the meaning of vocabulary

ining ideas through conversations with others.

expert learners?

explore different ideas. To work with their peers to clarify le viewpoints and confront misconceptions.

how they might best learn about refugees?

and refining the process of an investigation involving nd evaluating the process used.

expert learners?

out their learning and to judge the best process to use to conclusions and learn that sources should be evaluated

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