Post-Discussion Questions

This activity gives students practice in generating and evaluating questions for conceptual problems, but in response to a class discussion. It helps you know what students have understood and what has engaged them in a discussion. You will have time for the full version of this activity only in a class longer than fifty minutes.

Materials

You will need a board to record students’ questions.

Process: Short Version

1. On a day devoted to a class discussion or lecture, stop the discussion ten minutes before the period ends. Give students five minutes to write at least one but preferably two questions for continuing the discussion. Emphasize that the question can be on any aspect of the discussion or lecture.

2. Put students in groups of three or four and give them five minutes to select the one or two most promising questions from the group. Collect them and select three or four to make the basis for the next class.

Process: Long Version

1. On a day devoted either to class discussion or lecture, stop the discussion at least twenty minutes before the period ends. Give students five minutes to write at least one but preferably two questions for continuing the discussion.
2. Put students in groups of three or four and give them five minutes to select the one or two most promising questions from the group. Have each group write its question or questions on the board.

3. Give the groups five minutes to select the one or two most promising questions on the board.

4. After you collect the votes from the groups, assign the four top questions as study questions for the next class.