

Understanding Constructed Response Questions

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Principals

Time: 45 minutes

PROCEDURES

- 1) Begin with the PowerPoint presentation, *Responding to Constructed Response (CR) Questions*. Provide each participant with the *Answering CR Questions* chart and take the group through the extended response questions provided.
- 2) Pre-select a pool of constructed response questions. Place participants in groups of two or three and have them select a constructed response question from the pool.
- 3) Ask participants to examine their question and fill out the *Answering CR Questions* chart. Each group then writes an answer to their constructed response question. Once all groups have finished, they exchange their charts and the constructed response question and answer with another group.
- 4) After exchanging, ask the groups to review the exchanged papers, highlighting the ideas listed on the *Answering CR Questions* chart. Note the ways in which the answer addresses the important aspects of the question and is cohesive and concise. When all groups have completed their review, return papers to the original group.
- 5) As time allows, ask one or more groups to explain their *Deconstructing CR Questions* chart and share the areas highlighted by their review group.
- 6) Close the session with a *Swap Shop* activity, asking participants to write on a Post-it note one way in which he/she can extend this activity in the classroom. They then stand and swap their notes with each other, asking clarifying questions before swapping again. When the “swap” is complete, participants turn in their Post-its to the facilitator to be typed up and shared at a later time.

COMMENTS TO FACILITATOR

The D3A2 Resource Exchange and Success Web sites are resources for additional released items and scoring guidelines.

Remind participants that they can use this activity in their classrooms to help students understand how questions have been constructed and what is expected in their responses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Participants will strengthen their understanding of constructed response items and scoring guidelines to support the development and use of these items in the classroom.

DESCRIPTION

Participants in this activity will practice responding to a question using the *Answering CR Questions* chart. This exercise provides insight into how they can help students narrow their focus and address important elements in a question to write a cohesive and concise constructed response answer.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- Released constructed response questions, grade level and content area appropriate for participants
- *Answering CR Questions* chart
- PowerPoint presentation: *Responding to Constructed Response Questions*
- Computer, projector, screen
- Highlighters, Post-it notes
- Chart paper, markers
- Optional: PowerPoint presentation: *Tips for CR Questions*

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Depending on the time available, exchange papers another time to repeat the process.

For additional ideas on assisting students with constructed response questions, view the *Tips for CR Questions* PowerPoint and discuss implications for the classroom.

NOTES