

TEN THINGS EFFECTIVE COLLEGE TEACHERS DO

Presented by

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Think of the two best teachers you have had in your educational career

What made them such good teachers?

1. “The best teachers start backward; they begin with the results they hope to foster.”



Ken Bain

Think about it...

- The first duty of a lecturer--to hand you after an hour's discourse, a nugget of pure truth to wrap up between the pages of your notebooks and keep on the mantelpiece forever.

Virginia Woolf

What is that “nugget of pure truth” that I wish to give to my students?

Why is it important for them to know that?

What information will they need to understand the “nugget of truth”?

How will they obtain that information?

What specific skills will they have at the end of the course?



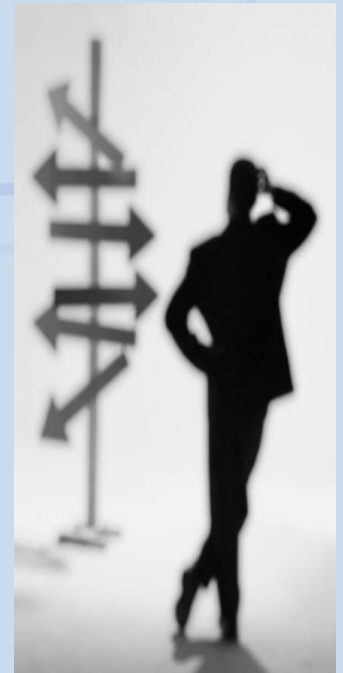


What can they do with that knowledge after they leave my course?

2. The best teachers find ways to present the content in ways to reach ALL learners

They are committed...

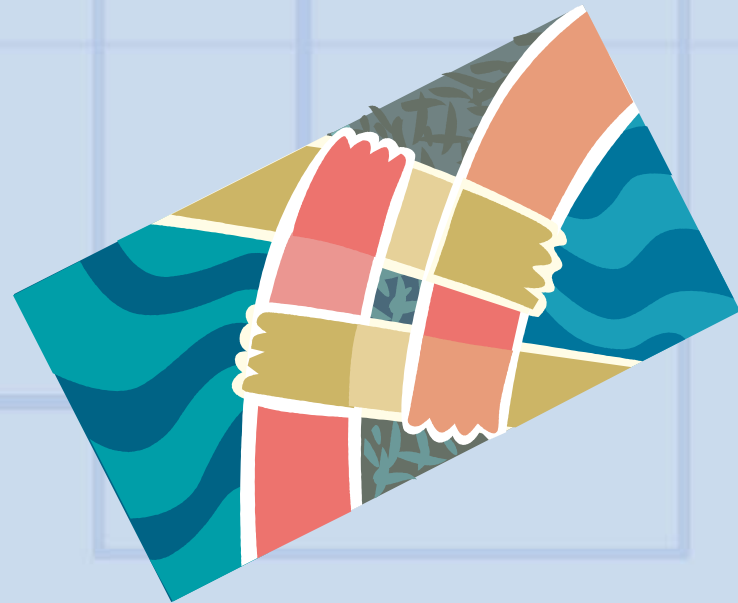
- To developing a course that explores multiple perspectives on the topic;
- To examining how their own experiences, values, beliefs, and stereotypes influence the way they behave in the classroom; and
- To making course materials accessible to all students.

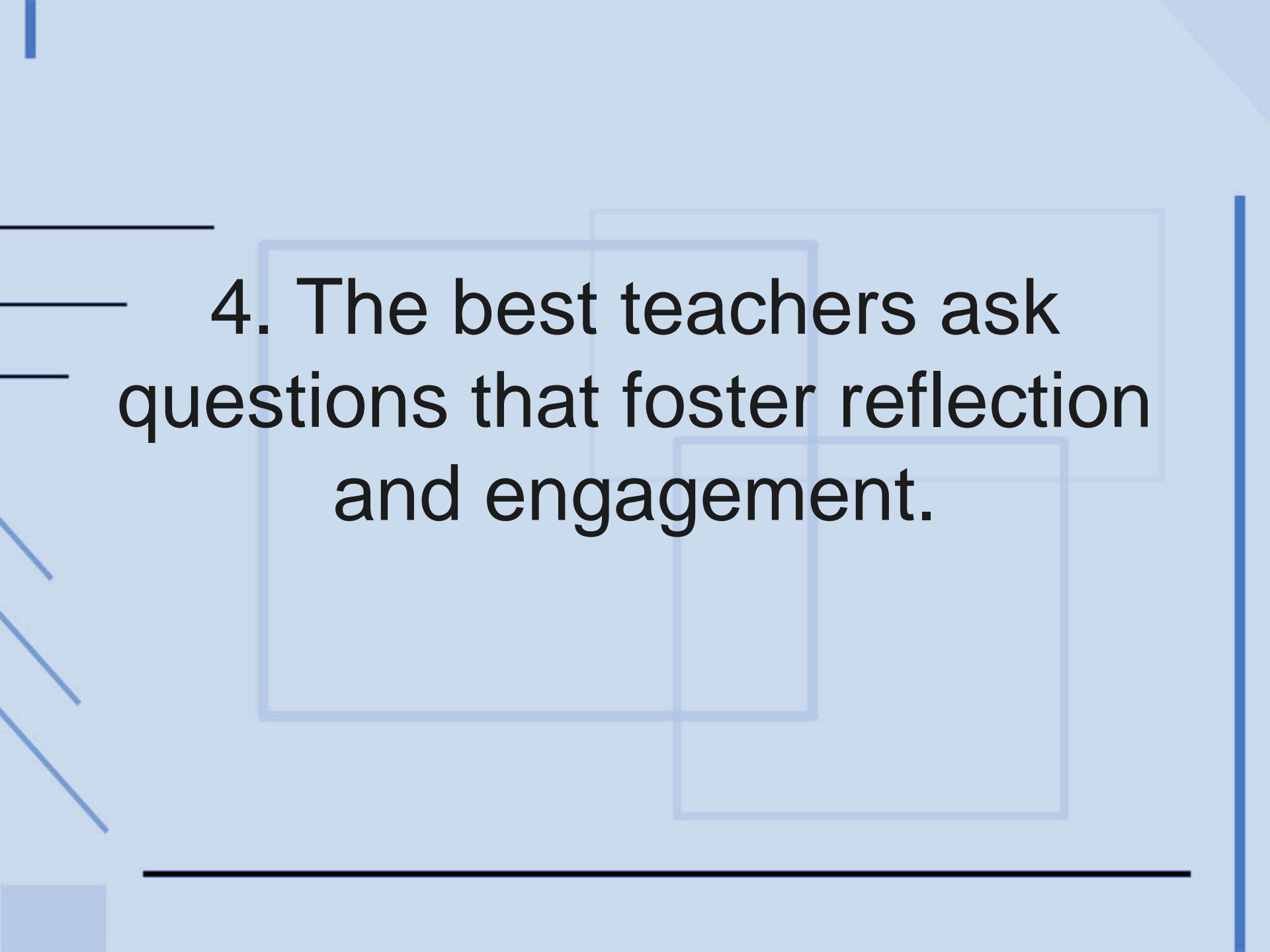


3. The best teachers relate the content to the student.

They understand...

- That a common experience draws a person to participate.
- Enhanced understanding occurs when meaning is shared.





4. The best teachers ask questions that foster reflection and engagement.

They think...

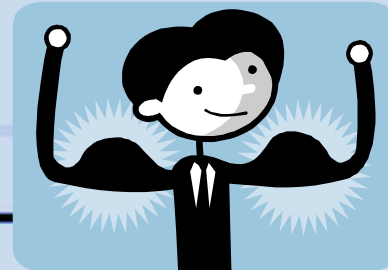
- Of ways to help their students “think better.”
- Of how to encourage students to reason together and challenge each other
- They ask:
 - How?
 - Why? Why not?
 - What else?



5. The best teachers transfer the “power” in the class to the students.

They share...

- By letting go of the power they can have over students and transferring it to each individual student to have power over his/her own learning. They expect their students to shoulder the responsibility that comes with the “power.”
- By involving the students in formulating the path of inquiry.



6. The best teachers connect goals to grades.



They analyze...

- The best way to relate the content of the course to the performance expectations.
- Pre-assessment methods, as well as alternative assessment activities to judge all learners.

7. The best teachers show students how to learn



They are aware...

- Of how people learn
- Of different ways to understand the content
- Of the role of correction in continued learning and that individualized correction paves the way to improved performance

8. The best teachers respond reflectively to learners.

They listen...

- With respect and without arrogance
- To facilitate self-discovery in the learner
- To clarify, to reinforce, to probe



9. The best teachers expect
“more” from their students.

They believe...

- That every student has individual value;
- That every student has the ability to achieve;
- That their students can achieve the high standards they set for them;
- Their students' expectations of the class can match the same goals that they have for them.



10. The best teachers foster a learning environment that promotes growth...

They teach by example...

- By modeling fair, honest, authentic communication;
- By creating a climate of collaboration, support, “humanness”, and responsibility;
- By daring to venture outside their comfort zone of thought.



- The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate “apparently ordinary” people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people.”

» K. Patricia Cross