

Delaware



Department
of Education

Guiding Questions Engaging Students

Below are the characteristics of activities that engage students in learning. You will use these questions to review activities and assignments for the potential to engage students in learning. You will select an engaging activity for your mentor to observe. For the purpose of this section, you may select activities to use that are part of a ready made curricular package or ones that you created.

A. Emphasize Thinking and Problem-based Learning

- Identify how the activity provides for multiple correct answers or at least for multiple ways to get the correct answer?
- How does the activity encourage the students to determine an approach, interpret their findings, and possibly formulate additional questions?
- What types of higher level thinking skills are required to complete this activity?

B. Permit Student Choice and Initiative

- In what ways does activity permit the students to determine how they will demonstrate their skills and knowledge?
- When does the activity encourage the students to formulate their own questions and design their own investigations?

C. Encourage Depth Rather than Breadth

- How does the activity challenge students to explain their thinking and justify a position?
- When does the activity encourage the students to examine the topic from a variety of perspectives, to consider various alternatives, and/or to search for underlying causes?
- What are some of the connections between ideas, events, and/or other content areas that students might make?
- In what ways does the activity represent relevant and/or authentic applications of knowledge?
- What is the context of the assignment in terms of the prior knowledge of the students and other topics that they have been studying?