

IQ: INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS

A routine for identifying patterns and connections as we build understanding

- *Insights: What new insights, Aha's or understandings have emerged for you from this experience? What are you taking away in terms of new learnings?*
- *Questions: What questions, puzzles, or wonderings do you still have about this topic that you need to carry forward in your learning?*

Purpose: What kind of thinking & learning does this routine encourage?

This routine focuses on reflecting on one's learning experience to identify both the new learning, which may involve capturing the heart, making connections, gaining perspective, or building explanations. The routine also surfaces questions (wondering) that allow for learning and understanding to move forward

Application: When and where can it be used?

This routine can be used after any learning experience. It tends to work especially well when the learning is experiential in nature and there is a need to distill and identify just what was learned. However, it can also work after reading or watching a video. The key is that there must be enough potential hot spots of learning that one needs to do some reflection to consolidate the learning and help move it forward through the identification of new wonderings. Teachers may use this routine as an "exit ticket" done at the end of class and handed to the teacher on the way out the door.

Launch: What are some tips for starting and using this routine?

After an episode of learning, tell students you want to do some reflection to help identify both what was learned as well as lingering questions and puzzles. Introduce the IQ with the questions above and have students do some short reflective writing. This can simple be a couple of bullet points and questions. It need not be narrative or long. Using index cards or half sheets of paper for the writing helps send the message that this is meant to be brief. Usually a few minutes is all that is needed.

Once students have identified their Insights and Questions, they can be shared. This can be done with partners or in small groups. Alternatively, to get students interacting they might be asked to find someone in the room had a different insight than they had. This will actually involve a lot of sharing. This can then be repeated by asking them to find a person with a different question. As students leave the room their index cards can be collected as an exit ticket. By having a copy of students' reflections you can see what their key learnings have been, detect any potential misconceptions, and identify common questions and puzzles that you might want to address in future classes.

Various forms of technology also can be used to share as well as collect students' reflections. For instance, students can share their insights and questions in a Google document, on Padlet, wallwisher, or through PollEveryWhere.com. All of these formats allow students to see one another's responses real time.

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