

# SSE Focus on questioning and wait time for 2<sup>nd</sup> Years



Research shows that teachers ask approximately one question every 72 seconds...

...38% of these are actually answered by the teacher.

Five principles for effective questioning:

1. Plan to use questions that encourage thinking and reasoning.
2. Ask questions in ways that include everyone.
3. Give students time to think.

For many teachers, **the mean wait time is less than one second**. When teachers increase this wait time to between three and five seconds the research shows that students begin to:

- respond at greater length and with greater confidence;
- offer more unsolicited, but appropriate, responses;
- offer more diverse, alternative explanations;
- relate responses to those from other students.

4. Avoid judging students' responses.

Research has found that if a teacher made judgmental comments, even positive ones such as "Well done!", then this negatively affected students' verbal performance even with the lengthened wait times. Ask open questions that permit a greater variety of responses and reply to students with comments that do not close off alternative ideas. "Thank you for that, that is really interesting. What other ideas do people have?"

5. Follow up students' responses in ways that encourage deeper thinking.

Ask students to repeat their explanation. Invite students to elaborate. Challenge students to offer a reason. Encourage students to speculate. Make challenging statements. Encourage students to ask questions. Encourage students to make connections.