

Reflective Activity

Critical Incident Questionnaire

Activity Description

This is a very short questionnaire that students fill out at the end of a classroom discussion. I hand it out and give the students 5 min to fill it out anonymously. Then I collect and read it. I follow up by letting the students know what has come up in the questionnaire. I got this from Dr. Stephen Brookfield at a workshop he led at Mac a while back. He publishes information about the activity on his website:

http://www.stephenbrookfield.com/Dr._Stephen_D._Brookfield/Critical_Incident_Questionnaire.html

Preparation, Handouts, Resources

[Download handout here.](#)

Recommendations

It allows the instructor to get a sense for how the discussions went and whether there are any issues that might need to be addressed and what methods/strategies work best for the students. But it also allows the students to reflect on what they discussed and how they discussed it, and to think about their response to the discussions we've had. I like that the questionnaire asks about when the student felt the most engaged and when the student felt the most distanced: this helps students think about their own learning and about what types of learning settings/styles work best for them.

Tool Contributor

Britt Abel, Faculty, German Studies