

The Perceptual Orientation research questionnaire

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Further information: www.cainelearning.com

In professional development, the Caines argue, there are always two levels at which people are growing: the development of their skills; and the development of the way they look at the world. They call them:

1. *Instrumental approach*
2. *Perceptual Orientation*

Their research indicates that in order to significantly improve the instrumental approach here has to be a parallel shift in perceptual orientation, ie the way we think about what we do, how we view our students, and how we select processes.

Use this questionnaire in conjunction with videos and readings on 'Perceptual Orientation' found in this section.

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1. When it comes to teaching, what decisions about what you actually do in your classroom do you believe are governed by others, and which decisions do you feel free to make yourself? Please list.
2. Where do the ideas for your teaching come from?
3. How do you organize your ideas for teaching? How do time parameters influence your planning?
4. How do you assure that there is student empowerment?
5. Is there a difference between an activity and an experience? Can you describe it?
6. Do you ever deviate from the prescribed curriculum? If so, under what circumstances?
7. What does order in your class mean? How do you maintain order?
8. What is your approach to grading and evaluation (please be specific)?
9. How do you accommodate student interests and needs (please give examples)?
10. How do you help your students "consolidate" what they are learning?
11. Do you observe, monitor and assess your own teaching and learning? (when? how?)
12. How do you create low threat/high challenge?
13. Teaching linked to real life experiences can have an "open ended" quality because there is no one correct answer. How can teachers teach this way without feeling a loss of control over students and what they need to learn?