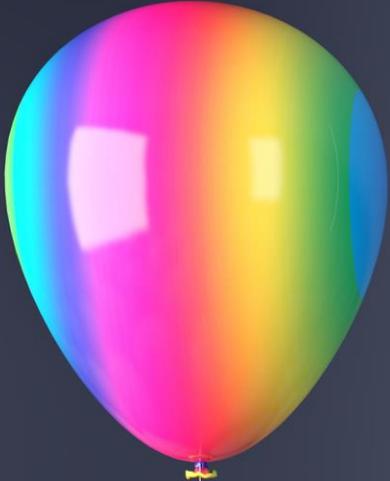


The “Power of Why” Pedagogy

A 15 Minute
Faculty Development Snippet



- *Current as of August 2023*
- *Questions? Click on ?box to contact Dr. Karen Friedman via email*





Learning Objective:

Demonstrate the ability to apply the Socratic method of inquiry through the use of the “Z” technique during a teaching opportunity with trainee physicians.

The Power of Why

Asking Why Makes Trainees Better Learners

- Wanting to answer the why is a mark of curiosity, the strongest intrinsic motivating factor. It forces people to find answers and ultimately ask more questions. It drives people to endlessly pursue knowledge.
- As clinicians, they will be able to use the power of why to make evidence-based judgments using their more informed understanding in new contexts. Trainees will be inspired to continue to learn and to innovate when they eschew dogma and embrace deeper understanding.

Asking Why Makes You a Better Educator

- Asking questions of our learners helps them to attain the highest order of understanding. If students understand the why, we increase their likelihood of retaining necessary information, developing a deeper understanding of knowledge, and transferring that knowledge to novel contexts.
- Asking the “why” during educational opportunities helps trainees to use their critical thinking skills, avoiding rote memorization that will not ultimately serve them well in clinical practice.

Purposeful Questioning Is Powerful

We Ask Our Trainees “Why?”
To Guide Their Learning in Three Different Ways:



Evaluate

Do learners
know/
understand?



Scaffold
Learning

Prompt/cue
learners to
reach
understanding



Challenge
Thinking

Do learners
know why?
Can they
elaborate?

The Socratic Method Using the Z Technique

TIME:
Give them time to think

QUESTION:
Formulate a thought-provoking question

ANSWER:
Guide the learner if necessary

LISTEN

REFLECT

PLAN

RESPOND:
Summarize the learner's response and elaborate with additional questions

REPEAT:
Go back through the process to achieve deeper understanding

"Z Technique" design by Dr. Kanekal S. Gautham, University of Central Florida, based on other sources about the Socratic method. First presented at *Teach Like Socrates: The Right Way to Use Questions When Teaching*, Pediatrics Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting, Washington, D.C. (April 30, 2023).

Let's Try It Out!

- 1. We'll watch a video together. In the video, there will be trainees discussing a patient clinical care decision that requires a knowledge base to answer.**
- 2. When you are prompted, write a question you would ask the trainee at that opportunity to invite them to explore why.**
- 3. Use the Z technique of beginning with a thought-provoking question to challenge their critical thinking skills.**

What Did You Think?

After sharing questions with one another discuss:

- 1. What do you think of your colleagues' questions? Evaluate which of the questions posed would be most effective in getting learners to why.**
- 2. Is the “Z Questioning” technique aligned with your style of teaching and learning? Does it feel natural to you? Why do you feel that way?**
- 3. How does this technique apply to your clinical teaching, and what are things that will facilitate you using this in your everyday teaching?**

Take Home Points

1

Asking learners why is powerful. It makes them lifelong learners and you a more effective educator.

2

The Z Questioning technique is useful to formulate “why” questions for trainees whenever an educational opportunity arises.

3

This might not come easily to you at first, and that’s okay. Keep asking questions, and you’ll improve your understanding of and skill at using this teaching technique.



Enjoy this Powtoon Exercise!

FOR FURTHER READING

For Access to our PubMed
Collection for Further Reading

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To Get the JiTT
(Just In Time Teaching) App

*Scan
Here!*



Access an evidence-based infographic
about the Power of Why and 200+
additional medical education JiTTs

Ask Me Why Campaign- Evaluation for Session #3- The Power of Why Pedagogy

Only people in my organization can respond, Record name, One response per person

1. What is your Department



Scan the QR code to vote or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/T2fv50F2K0>