Using Questions to Promote In-Depth Online Discussions

This presentation discusses on how to use questions to enhance student learning through online discussions. Discussion is an essential component in student learning. With widespread use of learning management systems such as Blackboard on university campuses, online discussion has been incorporated in online, blended and even face-to-face courses. However, it remains a challenge how to promote in-depth online discussion. Research shows that questioning is an effective teaching method. Questioning can activate student minds and develop their higher order cognitive skills. Dewey considers that questioning is the very core of teaching. Questioning as a teaching method has been applied in classroom teaching. Nevertheless, questioning has rarely been used in discussions. This presentation explores strategies to use questions to advance student knowledge construction through online discussions.