

The Question Spinner

“The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

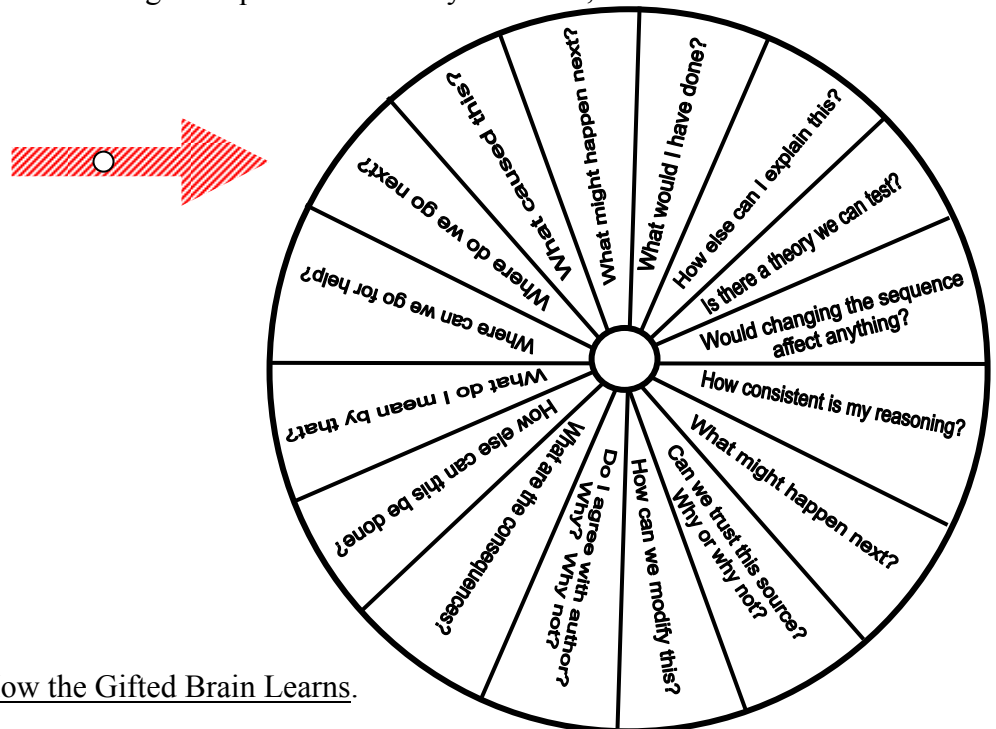
Questions are an important element in the classroom. Teachers ask questions. Students ask questions. Questions are a part of classroom communication; they can expand thinking and knowledge.

Questioning can be taught and learned. It is sometimes difficult for teachers to move away from direct knowledge questions and move on to synthesis and evaluation. However, it is worth the practice and time to develop questioning skills. It will stretch students and keep them interested. Questions such as “What if . . .?” “What do you think . . .?” “How could we change . . .?” will heighten student engagement.

Teaching students to ask these questions causes excitement and increases the level of participation. Everyone can ask a question. The more practice, the better the question – and the answer. The more students are involved, the more they feel they have some control over their learning. The feeling of ownership is powerful.

The *Question Spinner* (below) is a ready-made question strategy. Enlarge the circle, cut it out, insert a paper fastener through the center to serve as the spinner, and you’re all set.

Possible uses: Student spins AND answers the question; one student (or the teacher) spins and another student answers. You can change the questions to suit your needs, too.



Source: Sousa, David A. How the Gifted Brain Learns. Corwin Press, 2003.