Pose Purposeful Questions: Teacher and Student Actions

What are teachers doing?

- Advancing student understanding by asking questions that build on, but do not take over or funnel, student thinking.
- Making certain to ask questions that go beyond gathering information to probing thinking and requiring explanations and justification.
- Asking intentional questions that make the mathematics more visible and accessible for student examination and discussion.
- Allowing sufficient wait time so that more students can formulate and offer responses.

What are students doing?

- Expecting to be asked to explain, clarify, and elaborate on their thinking.
- Thinking carefully about how to present their responses to questions clearly, without rushing to respond quickly.
- Reflecting on and justifying their reasoning, not simply providing answers.
- Listening to, commenting on, and questioning the contributions of their classmates.



National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2014). *Principles to actions: Ensuring mathematical success for all.* Reston, VA: Author.

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