

Powerful PQA

What is Powerful PQA?

Powerful PQA is a question and answer format that focuses on getting to know the student through repetitive and progressively-more-detailed questioning that revolves around the vocabulary that is being taught.

How is Powerful PQA different from personal questions in the textbook?

The goal of personal questions in the textbook is to work the vocabulary and the goal of Powerful PQA to talk with students using the vocabulary. The same textbook questions are meant to be asked to many students with the goal of getting the student to respond and then move on. With Powerful PQA, the idea is to maintain a conversation with the same student as long as possible using the vocabulary. The end result is more acquisition of the target vocabulary while personalizing the classroom with the student.

How do I PQA with Power?

1. Have students draw pictures that represent answers to questions.
Pictures don't have to be used, but bring in the visual modality for visual learners.
2. Teacher picks one student and asks questions.
3. Any and ALL new vocabulary is written on the board.
4. Teacher "fishes" for details.
This is where Powerful PQA diverges from textbook questions.
5. Teacher then "reports" to class what s/he learned from chat with student.
Ideally, this should be done after every 2 or 3 questions.
6. Stick with the same student getting even more detailed with the questions. This makes the student feel important.
7. When you think you can't ask any more questions, ask even more.
8. Choose another student and repeat the process.
9. Now compare and contrast first and second student.

Suggested Powerful-PQA themes.

- ✓ **Sports & Activities:** includes sports, pastimes, seasons, days of the week, months, weather, parts of the day, present tense, "to play," and "to like."
- ✓ **Animals & Pets:** includes animals, descriptions, adjectives, colors, "to be," "to have," "to want," comparisons, and simple numbers.
- ✓ **School & Classes:** includes school items, class subjects, ordinal numbers, "to study," "to learn," "to like," "to dislike," time, days, and months.
- ✓ **Food & Meals:** includes food, beverages, meals, time, "to eat," "to drink," "to like," "to be hungry," and "to be thirsty."
- ✓ **Family:** includes family members, age, comparisons, descriptions, adjectives, numbers, and occupations.
- ✓ **House & Bedroom:** includes parts of a house, rooms, furniture, possessions, ordinal numbers, "to have," "to be located," numbers, colors, adjectives, and comparisons.