

Asking the Right Questions

Depending on which domain and level of learning, some learning methods work better than others.

This list of key questions will help you determine which learning method is best for a specific environment and audience.

Key Questions

Are the learners acquiring knowledge and skills? Or changing attitudes?

Identifying the cognitive domain will help design the right educational activities.

Who is the learner?

Knowledge of learner characteristics and preferences are important to design a learning experience that addresses learner needs.

How big or small is your learning group? What are the practical requirements?

This will help you define the logistics of your learning event, which will impact the learning methods you choose to incorporate. Time of day, the amount of time available, facility set up, availability of materials and cost will need to be considered.

What is the experience level of your learners?

Understanding learners' prior knowledge is critical. Not all learners will have the same background, therefore using a variety of learning methods will help meet needs of most learners, if not all.

What are other learner characteristics--such as cultural backgrounds?

Being aware of and sensitive to the cultures of your learners will help identify learning methods that may be more comfortable for them.

What learning preferences might your learners have?

If some learners prefer solitary study and others active learning, some enjoy competitive learning games and others don't, you can make available options or roles to accommodate these individual preferences.