

Brookfield’s CLOSE-UP

Stephen Brookfield developed the mnemonic CLOSE-UP to indicate a variety of questions instructors could ask students during class. A description of each letter, along with sample questions—excerpted from an interview with Brookfield—are included in the table below.

Question Type	Description	Examples
Clarity	Questions that ask students to clarify their thinking. These help to establish good communication skills in students.	“Can you clarify what you’ve just said?” “What do you mean by that? Can you put it in another way?”
Linking	Questions that ask students to link different parts of content. These help students to connect ideas from multiple class sessions or different classmates during a class discussion.	“How does your conclusion relate to our reading?” “What is the connection between Susie and Joe’s arguments?”
Open-Ended	Questions that are broad and do not seek a single response.	“What do we mean by...?” “What does it look like to...?”
Synthesis	Questions that ask students to summarize key points.	“What big questions still linger?” “What are the broad lessons we take from...?” “What is the most important overarching concept we’ve looked at?”
Evidence	Questions that ask students to support their argument or position.	“What evidence can you provide to support your generalization?” “What data can you cite?” “How do you know this?”
Understanding	Questions that ascertain whether or not students have understood the content properly.	“Can you give us an example of A or B?”
Priority	Questions that ask students to prioritize the key concepts or most important points made in a lecture or discussion.	“What are the most important points from our last discussion?”