

## Questioning and the Inquiry-Based Approach

**Connect new content and skills to students' experiences** The facilitator tracks what students are saying about what they already know about a topic and refers back to their personal experiences when introducing new skills and concepts. The most powerful motivator for the new learning is to engage students at a personal level with the new skill and content by asking open-ended questions and aligning their responses to the new skills and content.

**Variety of inquiry methods** Throughout the lessons, a variety of methods are used to help students process and respond to questions, e.g., silent reflection, journaling, signaling (thumbs-up for approval thumbs-down for disapproval, or shaky thumbs for more discussions), sampling (raise your hand if...), heads together in pairs, think-pair-share, pair-square, triads, small group work. The mix from lesson to lesson is important to keep the element of surprise in the lesson.

**Questioning the whole group, allowing think time, and then asking for volunteers** Students are never put on the spot in a Lions Quest lesson. Instead, safety is the guiding principle in eliciting responses from students. The question is posed, students are given time to think, and then volunteers are invited to respond. The facilitator asks different students to respond each time by saying, "We want to hear from everyone, and we haven't heard from some of you yet. Who would like to share?" That invitation is safe enough that students may be motivated to share who otherwise would not have done so, while not implying that those who are participating eagerly are doing something wrong or that they should stop thinking about their responses.

**Building subsequent questions on students' responses** The facilitator listens carefully to what students say and builds questions based on their responses. As often as possible, facilitators remember actual events that are relevant to the lesson that the students share and incorporate their examples and stories into the teaching of the lesson while honoring the agreement to not use names of those not in the classroom.