

# Explanation Skill

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# What is Explanation

- Teaching is not primarily telling.
- It's helping other people learn.
- That means the focus is on the learners, not the teacher.
- People learn best through experiencing something themselves, so when you are striving to teach something, you are constantly trying to **Get into the shoes of the learners** so that you can better understand where they are and what they need from you to learn the subject under study.

# Explanation skill

- Explanation is a key skill.
- Generally, the skill of explanation is complex  
Explanation is to explain or to give understanding to another person.
- It leads from the known to the unknown, it bridges the gap between a person's knowledge or experience and new phenomena, and it may also aim to show the interdependence of phenomena in a general sable manner.
- It assists the learner to assimilate and accommodate new data or experience.

# Why Explanation?

□ The explanation serves two purposes:

(1) to introduce the subject by giving some background about its usefulness and application; and

(2) to describe the subject in a simple, complete, and tantalizing way. The explanation should create a desire to become proficient in the subject under study.

# The components of skill of explaining involved

- **The components of skill of explaining involved**
- Clarity
- Continuity
- Relevance to content using beginning and concluding statements
- Covering essential points
- Simple
- Relevant and interesting examples appropriate media
- Use of inducts, deductive approach, it can be functional, causal or sequential

## Characteristics of effective explanation

- **Coordination in Statements.** Coordination in the statements used during the explanation is very essential; otherwise there will be all hotch-potch.
- **Relevant Statements.** While presenting the subject matter, the concerned statements should be relevant.
- **Fluency in Language.** The teacher should use fluent language so that the pupils may listen and understand his thoughts.

# Characteristics of effective explanation

- **Connecting Links.** The use of words, idioms or connecting links such as 'therefore' as a result of etc. is essential to link the different thought or statements.
- **Clear Beginning Statement.** Before starting any explanation, the teacher should make the pupils aware of what he is to teach on that day through a clear beginning statement.
- **Use of proper Words.** The teacher should use proper words for explaining an object or an event otherwise he would be in a state of confusion

# Practicing Skill of Explaining

- An effective explanation should be simple, clear, concise and interesting.
- In general it should not be rambling, long or dull. However, what is to be explained may be complex and abstract.
- Effective explanation requires careful and sensitive planning.
- It requires the recognition of a number of essential characteristics when putting it into operation :
  - **(i) Planning**
  - **(ii) Operation**



# Suggestions for effective explanation

- 1. Probe First.
- 2. Explain in Small Bites
- 3. Don't Start too Far Back

# Using Examples

## Inductive approach

- It starts with examples, and infers generalization from them. The major claims are:
  - i. It helps students acquire skills for looking for order in an apparently pattern less set of data.
  - ii. Encourages divergent and creative thinking.

# Other Examples in explanation

- 1. **Analogies.** Compare the situation to something that is familiar to the students
- 2. **Models.** Use simple 3D models made of common objects. use pre-school toys, tissue boxes, wire left by the repairmen, , etc, .
- 3. **Using the Blackboard** . Prefer chalk to Power Point or overheads, especially in a small group setting such as a lab or discussion session.
- 4. **Handouts.** There are several different kinds of handouts

# Components of Explanation

- Use of beginning statements
- Use of explaining links
- Use of mediators
- Use of concluding statement
- Questions to test pupils understandings



**THANK  
YOU**