



FEATURED PRESENTATION BY:

Deandra Little, Ph.D.

Learning in an Age of Distraction: Listening and Questioning Strategies to Promote Critical Thinking

DATE: May 5, 2015

TIME: 8:30-9:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00am-12:00pm Workshop

LOCATION: BSC St. Louis Room

Learning is driven by listening - a cultivated attentiveness to what we hear-and carefully chosen questions: questions that promote critical thinking and help us and our students glean new information, clarify perspectives or problems, organize and integrate knowledge, or challenge existing mental models in new or deeper ways. In a world of digital distraction and information overload, considering the purpose and structure of our listening and question asking strategies can promote engaged dialogue and critical thinking. Because questions by their very nature call for answers, these strategies can also initiate movement, propelling us toward understanding, action, or further inquiry.

Reflecting on our habits of listening and the types of questions we ask each other can help us frame discussions as moments of reciprocal learning, engagement, and action. In this interactive workshop, we will explore and apply a heuristic framework for listening and generating questions that can promote meaningful discussion in a variety of contexts inside and outside of the classroom. Participants will consider and examine habits of listening, and the role of questions in individual and group interactions while considering ways this framework also might be adapted into other areas of our work with students and colleagues.

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