

Study Circle



20 minutes

UNIT 1: ESL INSTRUCTOR TRACK - DISCUSSION QUESTION

Theme: Fear of Participation & Competence



The Scenario:

Maria attends class regularly but rarely speaks during whole-group discussions. When you call on her, she freezes. You suspect she knows the answers, but she seems terrified of making a mistake in front of others.

Discussion Questions:



1. Analyze the Needs: Look at Self-Determination Theory. Which of the three needs (Competence, Relationships, or Autonomy) is most at risk here?
2. The Pivot: The training mentions that if a student lacks prior knowledge, they can't connect new information. How can you check if this is a Competence issue (she doesn't have the vocab) or a Relationship issue (she doesn't feel safe)?
3. The Strategy: How could you use "Pair Work" or specific "Scaffolding" to meet her need for safety and connection before asking her to speak to the whole group?



If Time Allows...



1. Share a specific student who gave up because they believed their failure was permanent or out of their control
2. What ideas does the group have for you to shift the student focus from ability (stable/uncontrollable) to effort (unstable/controllable)?

