

# Guided Inquiry

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026  
AUSTIN DUNN, CHEMISTRY INSTRUCTOR

Research consistently demonstrates that guided inquiry, when properly implemented with **appropriate scaffolding and explicit instruction**, represents an effective pedagogical approach in higher education, particularly for **developing critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and deeper conceptual understanding**, especially in STEM fields.

## EXPLORING KEY POINTS



Provide students with a **research objective and resources**. This allows students to explore topics of interest and develop higher-order thinking skills.

**Leading questions** are crucial in guided inquiry as they help steer group discussions. These questions stimulate critical thinking and encourage students to explore deeper insights, fostering a more engaging and productive learning environment.



**Effective group logistics** include strategic formation, prioritizing collaboration, and implementing tips for a productive learning environment, ensuring all voices are heard and valued in the process.