

T³: Today's Teaching Tip

Responding to Hard Questions in the Classroom

Stephen Tardif, Guest post on Bok Blog, Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

Every teacher knows the feeling: the panic that comes when a student asks an excellent question whose answer isn't immediately within reach.

For most teachers, a stuttering response - or even a blank moment of thunderstruck silence - is preferable to the simple, honest, but embarrassing answer of **"I don't know."**

Yet why should an admission of ignorance feel like a needless surrender of hard-won credibility, if not a tacit admission of professional guilt?

To read more, please see: <http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/blog/ignorance-expertise-and-hard-questions-classroom>