I have found that students often know more than they think they do. Students sometimes ask questions in my math class to which they already know the answer. When I encounter this type of question, I use *The Repeater* (taken from the cult classic *Super Troopers*, 2001). This teaching strategy is one way that I involve students in their own learning, encourage critical thinking, and instill confidence.

Requirements of the Instructor: The ability to listen and repeat what was asked.
Total Prep Time: 2-5 seconds
Caveats: Students may get frustrated quickly, use with caution.

How it works:

Step 1: When a student asks a question in class, respond with the same question.
Step 2: If the student repeats the question, repeat the question.
Step 3 (Optional): Add statements such as “good question” or add a long pause.

Example use of *The Repeater*:
Student - “Why did you divide by 4?”
Instructor - “Good question, why did I divide by 4?”
Student - “I don’t know, that’s why I’m asking you!”
Instructor - “I know, that’s why I’m asking you.”
Student - “Did you divide by 4 because there was a 4 times x?”
Instructor - “Did I divide by 4 because we had 4 times x?”
Student - “I think so, because that’s how we solve for x.”
Instructor - “I think so too, because that is how we solve for x.”
Student - “Oh, I get!”