Muddiest Point

What is it?
The Muddiest Point is an activity to help assess where students are having difficulties in their learning.

How does it work?
The technique consists of asking students to jot down a quick response to one question: “What was the muddiest point in [the class, discussion, homework assignment, film, etc.]?” The term “muddiest” means “most unclear” or “most confusing.” Students can write down their responses on a card or a post-it note. This can be done anonymously. Students can also discuss their muddiest points in class if they feel comfortable. You can then address each point in turn. You might like to write them also to a class blog so that students can revisit the answer or those who missed the class can benefit from the explanation too.

How can it be used?
• To get feedback from students on their understanding of a topic, concept, class etc
• To promote discussion
• To get students to reflect on their learning

Resources
• Paper, pens
• Sticky notes or cards

Online: Use Padlet.com to use online sticky notes or a class blog for students to list their muddiest points.

Why use it?
To get a quick feedback on where students are ‘at’ in their learning and to see if some students are struggling with particular areas of the course.