1. What are the fundamental differences in pre-flop strategy between playing at 100 big blinds (BB) and 200 BB effective stacks?

At 200 BBs, players should open with more suited and connected cards, continue wider from in-position, and generally use larger open and 3-bet sizes. The focus is on making hands that can win large pots, like straights and flushes, because top pair often isn't strong enough to go all-in. In contrast, at 100 BBs, the emphasis shifts to high-card hands over suited and connected ones. Players will need to continue tighter when in position facing 3-bets and generally open and 3-bet for smaller sizes. This is because making top pair is significantly more important when playing shallower, as it's often strong enough to play for all the money.

2. How do 4-betting strategies differ between 100 BB and 200 BB effective stacks, both in and out of position?

At 200 BBs, when in position, a polarized 4-betting strategy is preferred. This means 4-betting the very strongest hands (e.g., Aces, Kings, Ace-King suited) and a few hands from the very bottom of the continuing range as bluffs (e.g., weak suited Ace/King hands). The middle of the range (e.g., Pocket Jacks, Ace-Queen) is generally called. Out of position at 200 BBs, a linear 4-betting strategy is used, focusing on 4-betting only the very strong hands (e.g., Pocket Tens, Jacks, Ace-Jack suited, King-Queen suited, Ace-Queen suited) that have good playability post-flop, as opponents in position are incentivized to call.

At 100 BBs, a polarized 4-betting strategy is generally used both in and out of position. This is because a 4-bet at 100 BBs often resembles an all-in, making playability less important and blocker properties more crucial. The bluffs in this polarized range often include hands with good blockers (e.g., King-Jack offsuit, Ace-Ten offsuit in position; King-Ten suited, Ace-Nine suited, Ace-Queen offsuit out of position).

3. What adjustments should be made to flop C-betting sizes and continuation ranges against check-raises when moving from 200 BB to 100 BB?

At 200 BBs, players should generally use larger C-bet sizes (around half pot) and continue wider to check-raises. This is because the deeper stack allows for more maneuverability and implied odds. For example, even a weak gutshot might be called against a check-raise in position. At 100 BBs, the approach is to size down C-bets (around one-third pot) and continue much tighter to check-raises. With a shallower stack, there's less room to maneuver, and implied odds are significantly reduced, making marginal calls less profitable.

4. How does the strategy for playing strong hands out of position on the flop change when comparing 200 BB and 100 BB effective stacks?

At 200 BBs, when out of position with a strong hand (e.g., Pocket Kings on a wet board), checking the entire range is often preferred. This allows opponents to "stab" (bet) into the pot, providing an opportunity for a large check-raise to get all the money in over two streets. Checking also allows for gathering information about the opponent's hand strength.

At 100 BBs, with a strong hand out of position, it's generally more straightforward to bet, bet, bet to get all the money in by the river without needing egregious sizes. Check-raising is less incentivized as the goal is to get calls from a slightly weaker range, which is achieved more effectively by consistent betting. However, weaker hands, draws, and air should still be checked to gather information.

5. What is the key difference in turn strategy, especially regarding emptying the clip, when playing 200 BB versus 100 BB effective stacks?

At 200 BBs, the turn strategy often involves "emptying the clip" with large bet sizes, knowing that opponents are generally inelastic on the turn (unlikely to fold strong top pairs or draws). The goal is to bloat the pot for a large river bet, as opponents' top pair hands and bricked draws become more elastic (price-sensitive) on the river, making them fold more often.

At 100 BBs, the crucial adjustment, which many players miss, is *not* to try to make opponents fold top pair. Emptying the clip (betting big) is generally reserved for situations where the opponent is highly unlikely to have top pair. If the opponent might have top pair, strategies include going small on the turn to keep a wider range of weaker hands in, or still going big to get draws to fold on a bricked river, but not expecting top pair to fold.

6. When is it appropriate to try and make an opponent fold top pair based on stack depth?

It is generally appropriate to try and make an opponent fold top pair when playing at 200 big blinds effective or deeper. At this stack depth, top pair hands often become elastic (price-sensitive) on the river, especially to large all-in bets, as opponents are less willing to commit their entire stack with a single pair.

Conversely, at 100 big blinds effective, it is generally *not* appropriate to try and make an opponent fold top pair. At this shallower stack depth, opponents are much more inelastic with top pair hands, meaning they are very unlikely to fold, even to an overbet, because the absolute dollar amount to call is much lower.

7. How does board texture influence the decision to "blast" (bet large) on the turn at 100 BB effective stacks?

Board texture significantly influences the decision to "blast" on the turn at 100 BB effective stacks. If the board is wet and dynamic (e.g., Jack-Nine-Deuce), and the opponent checks back on the flop (indicating they likely don't have top pair), it becomes appropriate to blast the turn and river. This is because, without top pair, the opponent's range is much weaker, and we're not trying to fold top pair they don't have; we're trying to fold everything else.

However, if the board is static and dry (e.g., Ace-Seven-Four), and the opponent checks back on the flop, it's *not* a situation to blast the turn and river. On such boards, opponents might check back top pair hands (e.g., Ace-Five, Ace-Six, Ace-Ten), meaning you cannot confidently rule out them having top pair. In these cases, it's better to check again on the turn or use smaller sizes, and only consider a large river bet if the opponent checks back the turn, confirming they do not have top pair.

8. What are the general principles for river betting sizes for bluffs and value bets when opponents are capped, comparing 200 BB and 100 BB stacks?

When opponents are capped (meaning the river does not change the nuts, and their range is somewhat defined), the river betting principles differ by stack depth:

* **At 200 BBs:** Opponents are generally more elastic (price-sensitive) with a lot of their range, meaning they might fold some strong hands. Therefore, bluffs generally want to be larger (even all-in), as the opponent is more likely to fold top pair to a big bet. Value bets, conversely, might want to be smaller to ensure calls from slightly weaker but still strong hands.
* **At 100 BBs:** Opponents are generally quite inelastic (not folding strong hands) when capped on the river. This means bluffs generally want to be smaller, as the goal isn't to fold top pair, but rather to get weaker hands or busted draws to fold. Value bets, conversely, generally want to be larger to extract maximum value from the strong hands that are unlikely to fold.