**Developing an Essential Question that is “Compelling”**

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|  | **Student Behavior** | **Questions to Assist in Developing Question** |
| **Student** | What’s the relevance?  Requires students’ to make connection beyond content being studied | * Is the question approachable, relevant, and validating of students’ experiences, or connected to their future?   + Will the question get under the students’ skin?   + Is it interesting?   + Is there a way to engage students in this question?   + Is the question written in student friendly language? |
| **Content** | What’s the connection?  Sets direction and requires students to pay attention to “key” disciplinary concepts | * Why is this important?   + Does the question address problems and issues found in and across disciplines?   + Does the question require students to apply specific disciplinary concepts and skills? *(What is adequate proof in each discipline?)* * Does the question raise other important questions that are sequenced in the unit of study (supporting questions)? |
| **Thinking** | What’s the thought?  Requires students to use analysis, interrogate evidence, and/or employ other inquiry skills | * Does the question encourage analysis, synthesis, evaluation, creativity? * Is the question open ended? * Does the question allow for multiple possible answers that encourage student thinking? * Does the question require students to argue with evidence? |

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