Depth of Questions Spectrum

Topic

Questions for Gathering → Questions for Reasoning/ Thinking → Compelling Questions → Essential Questions

	Questions for Gathering	Questions for Reasoning/ Thinking	Compelling Questions	Essential Questions
Reasoning Engaged	CLOSED Questions Yes / No OR "RIGHT" Answers Used to gather basic information for inquiry tasks	OPEN Questions Reasoning used for depth on curriculum topics to develop a content standard	OPEN Questions Reasoning applied to real-world context - sheds understanding on key concepts at the heart of the discipline	OPEN Questions Reasoning probes the "so what" of universal ideas, assumptions, issues,and experiences
Knowledge Formed	NONE. Collecting facts to know existing information	MEANING MAKING Forming knowledge beyond existing information	MEANING MAKING Forming knowledge beyond existing information with performance tasks developed for real or simulated audiences.	MEANING MAKING Forming knowledge on enduring concepts that transcends time, cultures and disciplines
Student's Work or Thinking Products	Work developed on ABOUT topics to determine mastery of existing knowledge	Work develops decisions or conclusions (analysis) useful as evidence of content understanding	Work develops decisions or conclusions (analysis) useful /beneficial for others	Work creates or invents (synthesis) solutions/ products useful / beneficial for others.

Using Questions to Shift into Higher Order Thinking

SO WHAT? **WHICH?** **NOW WHAT?** **WHY?** **HOW?** **WHAT IF?**

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