**Criteria for Compelling Questions**

**Your Topic:**

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**Your Original Question:**

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**Does your question…?**

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| --- | --- |
|  | Address problems and issues found in or across the disciplines? |
|  | Require students to apply disciplinary concepts and skills? |
|  | Require students to construct an argument in response? |
|  | Emerge from students’ curiosities? Have the potential to get under kids’ skin? |
|  | Ground itself in social studies content? |

If you answered yes to all of the above, congratulations! You have yourself a compelling question suitable for a C3 inquiry. If you answered no, don’t despair. Tinker with it. Enlist a colleague to help. Step back and ask: what is really interesting about this person, event or idea? And persevere. It’s not easy, but getting a good question is worth it!

**Your Revised Question:**

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**Examples of Compelling Questions:**

* How bad was the recession?
* Who won the Cold War?
* Was the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s a success?
* Why do we have rules?
* Why can’t I say that?
* When did Americans gain their liberty?
* Was the American Revolution really revolutionary?
* Were the Dark Ages really dark?
* Is war ever necessary?
* Is the American Dream still possible?