**Characteristics of Fertile Questions** Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step One**: View “Seattle is Dying” on youtube: <https://youtu.be/bpAi70WWBlw>

**Step Two:** Review types of fertile questions. Create one about “Seattle is Dying” for each type of fertile question and write it in the box below.

1. *An open question* – a question that does not have one single answer but rather several different and possibly contradicting answers.

***Ex) How can we help the entire homeless population when each individual person has different needs?***

**Another ex) How are our lives enriched through a connection to nature?**

1. *An undermining question* – a question that undermines the basic assumptions and fixed beliefs of the learners; casts doubt on the “self-evident,” on “common sense”; uncovers basic conflicts lacking a simple solution; and requires thinking about the roots of things.

**Ex) Why don’t homeless people seek out for help so they don’t have to live like that?**

**Another Ex) How do our attitudes toward nature influence the choices we make about how we treat it?**

1. *A rich question* – a question that requires grappling with rich content indispensable to understanding humanity and the world, that is impossible to answer without careful and lengthy research, and that tends to break up into sub questions.

**Ex) How do attitudes and stereotypes towards homelessness and addiction reflect the choices they make?**

**Ex) In what ways does the survival of all humanity depend on our personal relationship to nature?**

1. *A connected question* – a question relevant to the life of the learners, to the society in which they live, and to the discipline and subject within which it is asked.

**Ex) How does homelessness and addiction effect our lives or the youth in our community?**

**Another ex) What responsibilities do we, as individuals, have toward nature?**

1. *A charged question* – a question having an ethical dimension, a strong emotional and ethical charge able to motivate learning and inquiry.

**Ex) To what extent should we allowed the use of narcotics?**

**Another Ex) To what extent will the natural world adapt to its mistreatment by humans?**

1. *A practical question* – a question that can be developed into a research question; a question about which information is available to students

**Ex) What are the different factors that contribute to homelessness and addiction?**

**Another Ex) How can experiences in nature teach people the importance of looking after it?**