# Webb’s Depth of Knowledge - Essential Questions

Below are 6 types of Questions. Create ONE of each type of question. Post it on your blog.

## A Fertile Question

The pedagogical model of a Community of Thinking places the question at the center of teaching and learning. It deflects teaching from a focus on a “correct answer” to a focus on a “fertile question.” The first stage of teaching and learning in a Community of Thinking is to find or to invent a fertile question. A fertile question can be described in terms of six basic characteristics:

1. *An open question* – a question that in principle does not have one definite answer, but actually several answers different from and even contradictory to each other.
2. *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.
3. *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.
4. *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.
5. *A charged question* – a question having an ethical dimension, a strong emotional and ethical charge able to motivate learning and inquiry.
6. *A practical question* – a question that can be developed into a research question; a question about which information is available to students

Examples:

 Open question: How are our lives enriched through a connection to nature?

 Undermining question: How do our attitudes toward nature influence the choices we make about how we treat it?

 Connected question: What responsibilities do we, as individuals, have toward nature?

 Rich question: In what ways does the survival of all humanity depend on our personal relationship to nature?

 Practical Questions: How can experiences in nature teach people the importance of looking after it?

 Charged Question: To what extent will the natural world adapt to its mistreatment by humans?

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/e713/a6b2728fb8f9f3f22d35c4456b31bc854cd0.pdf