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| **The Power of Questioning in the Social Studies Classroom**KVEC 5/15/15 | http://www.slideserve.com/questions-about-c3-questions_1_2834936.jpg |

**Criteria for Compelling Questions --** Does your question … (answer yes or no):

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|  | Address problems and issues found in or across the disciplines? |
|  | Require students to apply to 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? |
|  | Seem cluttered with curricular jargon? Teacher-speak? |

If you answered yes to all of the above, congratulations! You have yourself a compelling question suitable for an 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!

**Examples of Compelling Questions:**

* How bad was the recession?
* Where are we?
* Can the US and Canada be friends forever?
* Why is Frankfort the capital of Kentucky?
* Who won the Cold War?
* Was the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s a success?
* Am I rich?
* What color am I?
* Does the color of our skin matter?
* Why do we have rules?
* Why can’t I say that?
* Why are we still reading Lincoln?
* When did Americans gain their liberty?