

Type of

Driving Question: Examples:

Abstract, Conceptual

(answered by conceptual analysis and logical argument)

What makes a book a classic?
What is a hero?
What is justice?
When do we grow up?
When is war justified?
Should U.S. foreign policy be pragmatic or idealistic?
Should art be censored?
Should President Truman have dropped the atomic bomb on Japan?

More Concrete

(answered mainly by the analysis of empirical evidence)

Why did the dinosaurs become extinct?
Are amusement park rides safe?
Is our water safe to drink?
Why don't I fall off my skateboard?
What effect does population growth have on our society?
Can DNA evidence be trusted in criminal trials?
Is watching TV beneficial or harmful to teenagers?

Problem-Solving

(answered by offering a reasonable solution)

How can we decrease the amount of pollutants in the water that runs off our city's streets into the river?
How can the federal government use monetary and fiscal policy to address an economic crisis?
How can a local business attract more customers?
How can we create an effective networking system for a client?
How can we improve traffic flow around our school?
How can we experimentally and mathematically model a landing sequence like that of the Pathfinder mission to explore Mars?

Design Challenge

(answered by creating—and often executing—a design that effectively meets requirements)

How can we design a community theatre that meets size limits and seats the most people?
How can we build a website to share information and opinions about novels that teenagers might like?
How would we design a museum exhibit about the Vietnam War so that it appeals to diverse groups in our community?
How can we produce a video of a soap opera in Spanish?
How can we create a (work of art/piece of media) to express our thoughts about diversity in our community?
