

# CHECKLIST FOR HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING GOALS

## What It Is:

A tool to guide the articulation of learning goals for use in planning tasks, lessons, units, and assessments

## How it Works:

Use the following checklist to guide the creation of learning goals and essential questions:

### Understanding Goals

- Written as complete sentences and phrased, "Students will understand THAT..."
- Focused on a concept or big idea
- Invite inquiry/require "uncoverage" (versus coverage)
- Hold "Transfer" power to self, world, discipline, other disciplines
- Capable of being investigated on multiple levels and/or across lessons and units

### Essential Questions

- Important to real people in the real world
- Raise additional questions
- Worthy of discussion
- Provocative/debatable
- Suggestive of more than one "answer"
- Related to/unpack the Understandings

### Know(ledge)

- Information, facts, terms, definitions, formulas, algorithms, categories, processes, etc.
- Focused on *essentials* (versus on "trivia" or things that are "fun" to know)
- Aligned to standards
- Includes pre-requisite knowledge *if necessary*
- Related to what students will "Do" (i.e., the skills in which they'll engage)
- If used for common planning, or for planning assessments, should be written out in full (e.g., "Dynamic characters' grow and change throughout a story" rather than simply "the definition of a 'dynamic character'")

### Do (Skills)

- Focused on student *thinking* (what happens in students' heads rather than with their hands)
- Begins with a powerful verb (see Bloom's for suggestions)
- Includes higher order thinking
- Avoids describing specific activities
- Focused on one measureable skill per "Do"
- Encompasses standards but goes beyond
- Suggestive of what students will "do" to grapple with the Essential Questions and Understandings, and how they will apply the Knowledge

## What It's Good For:

- Assessing the power and efficiency of learning goals and essential questions
- Ensuring the alignment of learning goals for differentiated tasks

## Classroom Examples:

See attached for sets of learning goals that are aligned to these criteria.