

Covid-19 Compelling Question Catharsis

It is hard to know exactly what to do in a pandemic. Most of us are consuming the news, responding to the litany of emails from our employers, and stocking our pantries. Some of us are teaching and meeting online, homeschooling our children, and working to keep our elderly relatives and friends safe. Everyone we know is scrambling to adjust and is tired from the effort—especially teachers.

But social studies teachers are a hardy breed. C3 Teachers are even hardier. In the midst of what was becoming a quarantine, they did what social studies teachers do best by asking compelling questions that have begun to emerge during this crisis.

We organized those questions into disciplines that make up Dimension 2 of the C3 Framework. While no question is purely civic, economic, geographic, or historical, we sorted them knowing that it was one way to view these questions and that there was likely a driving discipline that would anchor a student’s exploration.

While we are all living in uncertain times, inquiry remains a fundamental part of being human. We thank the graduate students at the University of Kentucky for helping us remember the importance of questions and the ways in which questions move us forward.

Keep inquiring, social studies teachers!

—Kathy Swan, John Lee, and S.G. Grant

Dimension 2 Discipline	Covid-19 Compelling Questions
Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the balance between freedom and security? ○ What does it mean to be a good citizen? ○ What does Covid-19 ask of me? ○ Will a virus heal the partisan divide? ○ What should happen when someone won’t stay at home? ○ What should we know about the President’s health? ○ Will Republicans and Democrats be able to agree? ○ What is most important during a pandemic: Federal, State, or Local Government? ○ How will Americans react when quarantine is no longer voluntary?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who gets care when hospitals fill up? ○ Does disaster change governmental responsibility? ○ Could the spread of misinformation cause more harm than a virus? ○ Should the government have the ability to withhold information from the public? ○ Could Covid-19 rearrange political parties? ○ Why is it wrong to call Covid-19 the “Chinese Virus?” ○ Should there be censorship during a national crisis? ○ Where do individual liberties end and social responsibilities begin? ○ Can a pandemic be blamed on anyone? ○ How can the Covid-19 situation end? ○ Will this pandemic ever completely be behind us? ○ What should happen to make us feel like we won? ○ Will Covid-19 make the United States more or less federalist? ○ How will students be assessed without standardized tests? ○ What is the right thing to do in moments of uncertainty? ○ Does individual safety guarantee societal safety? ○ What does a healthy government look like during times of sickness? ○ Should elections ever be cancelled? ○ Has the political narrative in the United States shifted? ○ Will Covid-19 change what kind of citizens we are? ○ Should we even bring back standardized tests? ○ Can the courts work under Covid-19?
<p>Economics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are we economically doomed? ○ Will the economy recover? ○ Will Covid-19 supercharge inequality? ○ Where are the masks? ○ Should people be able to profit during a pandemic? ○ Is our fight against Covid-19 worse than the disease? ○ Is now a good or bad time to buy a home? ○ Will Covid-19 encourage the US to transition to universal healthcare? ○ Should we have a universal basic income? ○ Who is impacted most by a disaster? ○ Should grocery store workers be considered emergency workers? ○ Do we need a bigger social safety net? ○ Can a pandemic highlight preexisting inequities? ○ Will an economic stimulus package save the economy from the effects of Covid-19? ○ Who wins/loses during a pandemic? ○ Who benefits from epidemics? ○ Is the pandemic stimulus package the same as the 2009 stimulus? ○ Can modern monetary theory bring the US out of the economic crisis caused by Covid-19? ○ What should define "essential work" in a market economy?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should we let banks, airlines, cruise-lines, and hotels fail? ○ Why are all the masks gone? ○ What is an essential business? ○ Who pays the cost for social distancing? ○ What is essential for our society? ○ Which industries won't get sick from Covid-19? ○ Should re-supply outings be limited to trash days? ○ Should gun, liquor, and take-out stores be considered essential businesses? ○ Why is healthcare tied to employment? ○ Which matters more: Having a good stock market or protecting citizens? ○ What will save the world from economic collapse? ○ What is the value of teachers? ○ Do we need teachers anymore?
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a red and blue pandemic divide? ○ Where should prisoners go during a pandemic? ○ Could Covid-19 cause a social recession? ○ Why has the coronavirus causing COVID-19 spreading so fast? ○ Should exotic foods be outlawed? ○ What does misinformation have to do with toilet paper? ○ Where is the safest place on earth? ○ How will Covid-19 impact freedom of movement? ○ Can self- isolation make the world more connected? ○ Could quarantine help the Earth? ○ What good can come from a pandemic? ○ What makes a pandemic possible? ○ Why has Italy been hit so hard by Covid-19? ○ How has social distancing impacted American institutions? ○ Does distancing push us forward? ○ Can where you live keep you healthy? ○ How should we talk about places devastated by Covid-19? ○ How did Covid-19 change our space? ○ Where am I supposed to go in a pandemic? ○ Could the US have responded to Covid-19 like South Korea? ○ When will people start digital distancing?
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can disease change the world? ○ What epidemics have Americans gotten wrong? ○ What can history teach us about a pandemic? ○ How does the reaction to Covid-19 compare to the Spanish Influenza of 1918? ○ Are pandemics inevitable? ○ What does the Covid-19 response say about America? ○ How will this pandemic be remembered?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What can the great plague of Athens teach us now? ○ How have pandemics changed history? ○ Why was tuberculosis glorified? ○ Whose voice matters the most during a pandemic? ○ Whose voice matters the least during a pandemic?
Social and Behavioral Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can disease make us better? ○ Will we ever shake hands again? ○ Will there be a Covid-19 baby boom? ○ What if we can't stop social distancing? ○ Can we be too informed about the virus? ○ When should you turn off the news? ○ How will we socialize while social distancing? ○ How will we celebrate milestones at a distance? ○ How should we avoid going Covid-crazy? ○ Is complacency more dangerous than panic? ○ How does quarantine affect individuals with mental health disorders? ○ What responsibility do we have to others? ○ How can I make others safe? ○ Does crisis bring out the best in us? ○ Does staying away bring us closer? ○ Do people change who they listen to during a crisis? ○ Who is essential for our society? ○ Why won't we just stay home?