## Coaching Questions for a Quality Month or Unit
(Revised 9/14/2001)

### Essential Questions
- What overarching question(s) will serve to guide instruction and to push students to higher levels of thinking?
- What overarching questions might help students to link or connect a “Big Idea” or topic to other concepts or subjects?
- What specific questions might guide teaching and engage students in uncovering what is at the heart of each Big Idea or topic?
- What questions point beyond the unit to other transferable ideas or concepts?
- How are your essential questions, skills, and assessments connected or hooked?

### Content
- What is the Big Idea or broad topic you will be covering?
- What are the major subcategories (chunks) on which you will spend a significant amount of time?
- What are the major underlying concepts for your Big Idea or broad topic?

### Skills
- What are the enabling skills or processes that will ensure successful mastery of the Big Idea?
- What skills do students need to be successful at demonstrating the Big Idea, broad topic, or concept?
- On what skills do you spend a significant amount of time?
- Have you included the benchmarks and critical skills from your curriculum framework?

### Assessments (culminating)
- What would you accept as evidence that students understand the Big Idea, broad topic, or concept?
- What product or performance will the students produce?
- Do the assessments allow students to demonstrate their learning or understanding in multiple ways?

### Activities
- As you consider skills, what practice activities would you use to help students learn the concept?

### Resources
- What specific support materials, books, field trips, videos, or Web sites do you use or incorporate in your teaching?

Source: Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny, Iowa.