Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Beginning Stages
Standards	Clearly tied to an assessment Cross-curricular connections Reflects what was actually taught at the end of the unit	All are clearly aligned to content/skills Few are tied directly to assessment (when you get to stage 2)	Included but not clearly tied to assessments Nice to know, but not relevant to unit focus Too many listed and not targeted within instruction	No standards indicated or the wrong standards indicated
Enduring Understandings	Aligned with essential questions Big ideas give meaning to content learned and have enduring value beyond the unit or classroom Are at the heart of the discipline	2-3 per unit Provide meaningful connection to the real world <i>Format:</i> bulleted list of sentences; capitalize the first word, period at end.	Unrelated to content and assessment (lacking alignment) Not age appropriate More than a few in number Errors in format	Absent Unrelated to unit or unclear Significant errors in format
Essential Questions	Engaging Guides students' learning Endures and establishes lifelong understanding of the unit Thought provoking and insightful Age appropriate	Clear focus Alludes to an understanding Aligned to content/skills Questions can't be easily answered <i>Format:</i> Bulleted list of questions, 2-3, Capitalize first word, end with question mark	Simplistic Uneven in quality More than a few in number Questions unrelated to content and assessment Errors in format	Absent Unit Questions Written as yes/no or right/wrong Significant errors in format
Content	Details specific, clear and succinct In list form rather than narrative References key concepts taught in unit Topics align with standards, skills and assessments, essential questions Noun: noun descriptor	Describe main concepts Aligned to standards Subject matter (descriptive) What students will know and understand <i>Format</i> : Bulleted list of phrases; written as a key noun or phrase, capitalize first word; no punctuation	Few topics/concepts identified Vague Long list of vocab terms, rather than phrases Errors in format	Generic Narrative Worded as skills Disconnected alignment to skills and assessments Significant errors in format
Skills	Precise and targeted Achievable and measurable Reflects proficiency levels Higher order thinking skills from Bloom's Taxonomy used. Includes measurable verb, target (how it will be measured), descriptor (details with relationship to content)	Clear action verbs Aligned to standards Measurable A variety of levels used from Bloom's Taxonomy Format: Bulleted list of phrases, begin with bold verb, capitalize first word; no punctuation	Generic verb Verbs not measurable Broad objectives Only low levels of Bloom's Taxonomy used Errors in format	Vague Written as content or activity Disconnected to content and assessment Significant errors in format