

# AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner

## Challenge to Reflect

### 1. Develop understanding of the Common Beliefs:

- ✓ Read through the Common Beliefs and descriptions. Circle the key words as you read.
- ✓ What do they mean to you as a learner and information seeker?
- ✓ What do you think they mean to your students?

### 2. Develop understanding of the Standards:

- ✓ Read the four general standards in the orange rectangle.
- ✓ Think about a personal research or information seeking experience as you read through the standards. How do they apply to that situation?

### 3. Develop a working knowledge of the Standards:

Reflect on your current teaching by examining two lesson plans. Choose one of your favorites, and one you think could use adjustment. Ask yourself the following questions using the standards/benchmarks section to guide you (red, green, yellow, and blue pages):

- ✓ **\*What should students learn?**

What are the learning objectives? Is this lesson focused on skill-building, or is it a performance task in which students demonstrate what they have learned? How will the educators guide the inquiry process?

- ✓ **How will students learn?**

How will students be actively engaged in questioning, problem-solving, and learning? How will students apply new information? How will students reflect on the process and learning? What will students take away from this experience and transfer to new situations?

- ✓ **How will educators know if students learned the information?**

How will evidence of learning be provided? How will students self-assess? How will the educators assess product and process?

\*Questions taken from: Planning and Assessing Inquiry-based Learning. *School Library Monthly*, 26, no. 1 (September 2009) p. 2

### 4. Develop inquiry-based lessons:

“Inquiry is a student-centered approach to learning in which students interact with information, use existing knowledge to form new understandings, and use newly formed skills to construct new knowledge. Inquiry shifts the focus of learning from a right or wrong answer to the process of learning and investigation” (from *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*, AASL, 2009, p. 25).

- ✓ Ask yourself what you will need to do to change the two lesson plans into inquiry-based lessons.
- ✓ Use the standards to develop new ideas and strategies.
- ✓ Make notes on your old lesson plans and implement them.
- ✓ Begin incorporating these ideas and strategies into new lesson plans you develop.