GENERATING AUTHENTIC STUDENT VOICE

A Rubric for Teachers in the Age of AI | Guided Inquiry Design (GID)

When students move through curiosity → immersion → third space, their questions carry traceable emotion. Here's how to see it.

Voice Indicator	What to Look For	Student Example	vs. AI Output
🔥 **Urgency & Outrage**	"Why" questions that carry moral weight. The student isn't just curious — they're troubled.	*"Why do certain countries force women into marriages as a preteen and what can be done about it?"*	Asks "What is" or "How does" — describes without emotional stakes.
💔 **Personal Proximity**	Specificity that only comes from lived experience — a detail that reveals the student has been close to this.	*"How does the shortage of therapists and lack of mental health services impact well-being?" (Note: shortage — they've hit this wall.)*	Uses general framing: "mental health services" without the specific pain point of access.
🛡️ **Protectiveness & Love**	Questions about protecting something or someone. Tenderness is present in the phrasing.	*"How can endangered species be protected from poachers while keeping them in their habitat?"*	Frames as policy or data problem, not as something worth protecting.
😤 **Fear & Vulnerability**	The student is asking about something that threatens them or their community directly.	*"What are some major safety concerns in United States schools and what can be done to improve safety?"*	Would frame as statistics or systemic analysis , not as a personal threat.
🌍 **World + Self Connection**	The question connects a global issue to a local or personal reality — third space thinking.	*"What steps are being taken to give access to nutritional foods to people in low-income areas?"*	Might ask about food security broadly, not anchor it to a specific community context.
❓ **The Unanswerable Itch**	A question that doesn't have a tidy answer. Student is sitting with complexity, not seeking a summary.	*"How does climate change affect natural disasters, and how do those disasters impact communities?"*	Tends toward answerable, encyclopedic questions. Avoids sitting in uncertainty.

The key question is not ***"Did AI write this?"*** it is ***"Where is this student in this work?"***

Guided Inquiry Design builds the conditions where that question is always answerable.

Learn more about Guided Inquiry Design: guidedinquirydesign.com | *Based on Kuhlthau's Information Search Process & Maniotes' Third Space Theory*