## **Unpacking the Disciplinary Core Idea** STEPS FOR UNPACKING **YOUR NOTES** Step 1. Select the Performance Expectation Step 2. Unpack the Core Idea 2.1. Identify the component ideas that are essential to, and comprise, the core idea in the performance expectation. Question to think about: What are the main ideas that are present? 2.2. Elaborate on the component ideas and their elements. Questions to think about: What is the intended meaning of each element of the component ideas? What are the sub-ideas that are key to the elements? What terminology is explicitly used in the component ideas? 2.3. Define Boundary conditions Questions to think about: What peripheral ideas or terms are not essential for understanding the core idea? What goes beyond what



students should know?

Unpacking the Core Idea	
2.4. Describe Prior-Knowledge	
Question to think about:	
What other knowledge and skills (both from this topic and from other topics) do students need in order to achieve an understanding of this core idea and its components?	
2.5. Describe Student Strengths and	
Challenges	
Questions to think about:	
<ul> <li>Are there any commonly-held ideas that differ in important ways from the scientifically accepted understanding?</li> <li>What everyday experiences have students had that would be relevant for this DCI??</li> <li>What challenges will students have in learning this idea?</li> </ul>	
2.6. Brainstorm Phenomena and	
Sketch Scenarios	
Questions to think about:	
What phenomena would provide an example of this core idea?	
What everyday contexts or situations would be relevant for exploring the phenomena?	

