



Over the course of your English Language Arts experience and hopefully, your life, we hope that you will ask yourself and others some essential life questions.

## What are essential questions?

Essential questions are questions that:

- are *open-ended*; there is no one single, correct, and final answer
- often spark discussion and debate
- call for you to analyze and evaluate ideas and information
- call for you make inferences and predictions
- allow you to make connections
- may create more questions related to the idea
- requires you to support and justify your ideas
- can be revisited again and again

## Examples of essential questions:

Question	Is this an essential question?	Commentary
What does it mean to regret?	No	It doesn't open up worthy inquiry. At best, it could lead to a definition.
How are prejudice and bias created?	Yes	This is a rich question for exploring the many aspects of what influences people, including historical, social, parental, peer, and media impacts.
What are examples of racism?	No	This would result in a list, rather than an exploration of an idea.
How does where you live influence how you live?	Yes	This would require further exploration of how location, climate, natural resources, economy and lifestyle influence people.