

Section I E: What are some essential questions that will be used in gaining student interest?

An essential question is a provocative question designed to engage student interest and guide inquiry into the important ideas in a field of study. Rather than yielding pat answers, essential questions are intended to stimulate discussion and rethinking over time. There are two types of essential questions: overarching and topical. Over-arching questions focus is based on a key concept, enduring understanding, and/or big idea to prompt inquiry. *What provocative questions will foster is inquiry, understanding, and transfer of learning?* An essential question are interpretive, and have no single “right answer.” The following is a list of criteria that can be generally associated with essential questions;

- Provoke and sustain student inquiry, while focusing learning and final performances.
- Address conceptual or philosophical foundations of a discipline/ content area.
- Raise other important questions.
- Naturally and appropriately occur.
- Stimulate vital, ongoing rethinking of big ideas, assumptions, and prior lessons.

Resource Link: <http://www.curriculum21.com/pd/resources/archives/glossary>