

To develop proficiency in another language, the Louisiana Department of Education supports the use of essential questions to spark relevant conversation and develop biliteracy.

An essential question...

- is open-ended, intellectually engaging, and sparks further communication such as analysis, inference, evaluation, or prediction.
- points toward important, transferable ideas within and across disciplines.
- requires support and justification to develop a deeper understanding of interculturality.
- Recurs over time, i.e., the question can, and should be revisited again and again.

Essential questions meet all or most of the above criteria. When teachers use essential questions to guide student learning, students are more engaged, and are allowed to *uncover* new and richer aspects of a topic rather than simply *cover* it, thus the material becomes relevant and meaningful to students. When using essential questions to guide student learning, teachers choose relevant vocabulary, grammatical structures, and authentic materials, aligned with the [Louisiana World Language Learning Standards](#), to facilitate student learning.

Teachers should choose from the examples provided, or create essential questions based on student interests, being careful to address each of the following themes: Personal and Public Identities, Contemporary Life, Family and Communities, Global Challenges, Beauty and Aesthetics, and Science and Technology.

Guidance adapted from:

Essential Questions: Opening Doors to Student Understanding, by Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins, Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (April 9, 2013).

The Keys to Planning for Learning: Effective Curriculum, Unit, and Lesson Design, by Donna Clementi and Laura Terrill, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (2017).

Theme	Sample Essential Questions		
Personal and Public Identities	Who am I?	What am I good at?	What role do I have in the world?
	What makes someone a good friend?	What does it mean to be a “good” or “bad” person?	What makes a person famous?
Contemporary Life	How can I live a balanced life?	Is my life overscheduled?	What activities do I find enjoyable?
	What is my dream vacation?	How do my actions define who I am?	Where do people live?
Family and Communities	Who matters to me?	What makes my community unique?	What makes a family?
	How can one person impact the community in which he/she lives?	How do I define my culture?	Who is a part of my family?
Global Challenges	What is pollution?	What does it mean to “go green?”	Why is recycling important?
	What rights do children have? (right to education)	What should I eat to be healthy?	How does access to food impact our diet?
Beauty and Aesthetics	What makes music important to people?	How is beauty valued in our society?	What does beauty mean to me?
	What does one’s clothing choices say about them?	How are movies a form of art?	What defines something as art?
Science and Technology	How do my habits impact the planet?	Who creates and invents?	What technology is important to me?
	How does the definition of a “green lifestyle” differ around the world?	How does technology improve education?	What technology is a necessity to me?