



Sample Essential Questions—and Related Academic Content

The following Essential Questions are taken from projects in High Tech High K–12 schools and beyond.

Essential Question: Should I Eat That?

Biology, Physiology, Anatomy, History, Cultural & Religious Studies, English, Geography, Government, Economics, Math

Essential Question: What Does It Mean to Act Like a Girl?

Elementary school project into identity and gender norms.

Essential Question: Can We Control an Ecosystem?

Environmental Science, Engineering, Ecology, Physics, Chemistry

Essential Question: How Can We Create a Peaceful Community?

Elementary school project to start the school year, and to delve into civic engagement.

Essential Question: When is the “Correct Answer” Not the Best Solution?

Mathematics, History, World Cultures, English, Engineering

Essential Question: What is The Magic of Toys?

Elementary school project in engineering, design, empathy interviews, writing, drawing.

Essential Question: Is it Safe to Go in the Water?

Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, History, English, Journalism, Multimedia, Geography, Government, Economics,

Essential Question: Should I Say That? And—Am I Responsible for What You Hear?

History, Cultural & Religious Studies, English, Geography, Government, Multimedia, Art

Essential Question: Why Do I Live Here? And Why Do They Live There?

Geography, Mathematics, History, World Cultures, Economics

Essential Question: How Has War Impacted My Life?

History, Statistics, Mathematics, Geography, Economics, English, Chemistry

Essential Question: How Can I Improve Someone’s Life With An Idea?

Engineering, Design, Mathematics, English, Physics