Essential Questions Checklist

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| *Does your essential question…* | Yes! | Kind of | Not yet |
| **Spark discussion and debate** |  |  |  |
| **Demand evidence and reasoning because there’s no right answer** |  |  |  |
| **Stimulate ongoing thinking and inquiry** |  |  |  |
| **Suggest multiple, arguable answers** |  |  |  |
| **Raise further questions** |  |  |  |
| **Recur throughout the unit or year** |  |  |  |
| **Point to the unit’s big ideas** |  |  |  |

Avoid:

* Leading questions
* Questions with obvious answers
* Questions where students are likely to agree on one “best” answer
* **Questions not directly related to unit’s big ideas/understanding goals**
* **Questions not relevant to students’ lives**