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:


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Sample Essential Questions</th>
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| **Personal and Public Identities** | Who am I?  
What makes someone a good friend?  
What role do I have in the world?  
What makes a person famous? |
| **Contemporary Life**        | How can I live a balanced life?  
Is my life overscheduled?  
What activities do I find enjoyable?  
Where do people live? |
| **Family and Communities**   | Who matters to me?  
What makes my community unique?  
What makes a family?  
Who is a part of my family? |
| **Global Challenges**        | What is pollution?  
What does it mean to “go green?”  
Why is recycling important?  
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 defines something as art? |
| **Science and Technology**   | How do my habits impact the planet?  
Who creates and invents?  
What technology is important to me?  
What technology is a necessity to me? |