### **CREATING ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATION PROMPTS**

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### **The 7 defining characteristics of essential questions.**

In the book, “[Essential Questions](http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/109004/chapters/What-Makes-a-Question-Essential%A2.aspx),” authors Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins explore the difference between essential and nonessential questions. Their research resulted in the 7 characteristics of good essential questions:

1. Essential questions are open-ended and don’t have a single, final, and correct answer
2. Essential questions are thought-provoking and intellectually engaging. They also promote discussion and debate.
3. Essential questions call for higher-order thinking, such as analysis, inference, evaluation, and prediction. They can’t be effectively answered by recall alone.
4. Essential questions point toward important, transferable ideas within disciplines.
5. Essential questions raise additional questions and spark further inquiry.
6. Essential questions require support and justification, not just an answer.
7. Essential questions recur over time. They can *and should* be revisited again and again.

From [Summit Learning](https://blog.summitlearning.org/2019/08/essentialquestions/)