

Name: _____

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Academic Big Question Assessment Project (Partners)

Guidelines on Question Generation

- 1.) Questions should focus on larger ideas that people have different opinions on. Your question should have, at its core, a philosophy, idea or even an emotion that you relate to and can explore.
- 2.) The questions should invite sub-questions to the larger question. For example, ‘Are we all alone in life?’ invites the simple answer of ‘yes’ or ‘no’. But it also invites follow up questions such as:
 - a.) Why do people feel alone?
 - b.) How do people try to escape the feeling that they are alone?
 - c.) What consequences come from the impression that we are all alone?
 - d.) How can we try not to feel like we are all alone?
- 3.) Questions should be arguable, which is the point of this project, this means that the questions are too large to have a single correct answer. If asked, you should be able to give two answers to your Big Question. In some cases, this may simply be looking at both sides of the argument, or recognizing the many possible answers to the question. If you can only see one correct answer to your question, then it is not arguable enough or you should broaden your perspective on the issue.

Bad Example: What is the definition of friendship?

 - This is a poor example of a question because it does not have two arguable sides and can be easily answered in a Google search.

Good Example: Can you recover from a tragedy?

 - This is a good example because we can say yes or no, and also argue the answer for a physical tragedy, an emotional tragedy, what is a tragedy, etc.
- 4.) Questions should be something that you can take action on/connect to personally. At the end of the quarter you will create a multimedia presentation that includes your research into this idea/emotion/problem as well as a direct example of how you went out into the world and tried to address it.
- 5.) This is not a Science project. Questions based around global warming, water consumption, etc. will not be approved.

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Academic Big Question Project Overview

At the end of the quarter you should look back over your question, the artifacts(sources) that you have collected to help you answer the question, and your reflections on these artifacts(sources).

Use these to create a multimedia project that explains the following:

- Your question and why you selected it. (Why does it matter, why do you care?)
- Your initial ideas about the question.
- The artifacts(sources) that you collected (you must have at least 3) and how each helped to deepen, challenge, or expand your understanding of the question.
- Your current understanding of the answer(s) to the question, potential counter-arguments to your thesis, and any remaining, related questions your inquiry has sparked in you.
- A direct example of how you went out into the world to address the concept of your question.
 - For Example: Does true love exist? You could go out into your community and interview students, parents, teachers to get their opinions. You could use this information to help prove your point.

Over the Quarter you are Required to Complete:

- An Outline of your presentation with Works Cited page.
- A 5-7 minute multimedia presentation - video, prezzi, act out skits, snap-story collage, vlog, powtoon, multimedia blog, write your own music, diorama, etc.
- You may work with a partner or individually.

Definitions:

Multimedia - the use of a variety(more than one) of media in an entertainment or work of art.

Outline - provide the skeleton, the bare bones, on which you can build your writing. They provide structure so that the ideas and thoughts flow logically and build towards a strong conclusion. This outline will also have your Works Cited on it.

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Sample List of Big Questions

Is it better to fit in or stand out?	What makes something valuable?
Is there a cure for grief and/or heartache?	How important is telling the truth?
Are role models important?	Is popularity important?
How important is it to show others that you care?	Does knowledge come at a price?
Can you recover from a tragedy?	Can ordinary people be heroes?
Can you be from two cultures at once?	What is the definition of friendship?
Do world conflicts affect us?	How can I create a better school environment?
Can beauty be captured in words?	Who are the victims of war?
What can we learn from disaster?	Is the news important to society?
What do we owe others?	What does it mean to be a <i>good</i> human?
What would make the world safer?	Do the ends justify the means?
What would you sacrifice for justice?	How important is wealth?
What makes a good candidate?	What makes a good leader?
What is our place in nature?	Which memories are the most important?
What do we learn from experience?	How does nature inspire us?
How can we change society for the better?	Whose life is it, anyways?
Can your conscience mislead you?	What does it take to be a survivor?

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Final Academic Big Question

Directions: Fill out the following information on the next two pages to come up with your final big question that you will turn in to your teacher for final approval. Once your question has been approved by your teacher, you can begin your in depth research to prepare for your presentation. You may choose a question off the sample list as long as you are connecting the question back to your world/community/school/etc. Make sure that you relate to your question and will continue to be interested in it throughout the quarter. You will not be allowed to change your question after this form is submitted and approved.

Partner Names: _____

*You may work individually or with a partner.

Think of an idea, philosophy, or emotion that you feel strongly about. These could be abstract concepts like protest, hero, love, or hate. Write one below.

Who else would this topic be important to? Why?

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

Why does this topic matter? Why is it relevant? Why should we care about it?

1.) _____

2.) _____

Write two possible solutions/answers to your question. If you cannot think of more than one answer, your question is too narrow.

1.) _____

2.) _____

Write your final big question in the box that you plan to submit for approval:

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Approved by Teacher: YES / NO

Date:

Name: _____

Block: _____

Big Question Artifact(Source) Exploration Sheet

Directions: Once you have come up with a big question that you plan to submit for approval from your teacher, find two sources that support, or provide a counter argument for, your big question. If you struggle to find two sources you will need to go back and rephrase or change your question and redo this page before submitting it to your teacher. Your question needs to be something that you can find a minimum of 3 sources for.

Source One:

Title: _____

Author/Artist: _____

Publication Date: _____

Page Numbers (if applicable): _____

Publisher/Sponsor: _____

Source (Circle one) Website News Book Database Other: _____

Explain what this artifact is, what it 'says' about your Big Question, and how you plan to use it to support your argument (3-4 sentences): _____

Source Two:

Title: _____

Author/Artist: _____

Publication Date: _____

Page Numbers (if applicable): _____

Publisher/Sponsor: _____

Source (Circle one) Website News Book Database Other: _____

Explain what this artifact is, what it 'says' about your Big Question, and how you plan to use it to support your argument (3-4 sentences): _____
