

## A.P. French – Driving Question

Essential Questions	Not Essential Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do the arts shape, as well as reflect, a culture?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What common artistic symbols were used by the Incas and the Mayans?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do effective problem solvers do when they get stuck?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What steps did you follow to get your answer?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How strong is the scientific evidence?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is a variable in scientific investigations?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there ever a "just" war?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What key event sparked World War I?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can I sound more like a native speaker?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are common Spanish colloquialisms?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is a true friend?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is Maggie's best friend in the story?</li></ul>

### Six Essential Defining Characteristics of Essential Questions

As a result of comparing essential and nonessential questions and studying the additional examples, you should now have an idea of what makes a question "essential." Here are six defining characteristics. A good essential question

1. Is open-ended; that is, it typically will not have a single, final, and correct answer.
2. Is thought-provoking and intellectually engaging, often sparking discussion and debate.
3. Calls for higher-order thinking, such as analysis, inference, evaluation, prediction. It cannot be effectively answered by recall alone.
4. Raises additional questions and sparks further inquiry.
5. Requires support and justification, not just an answer.
6. Recurs over time; that is, the question can and should be revisited again and again.

Your Driving Question :