Identifying Essential Questions and Understandings

Topics and Big Ideas

What essential questions are raised by this idea or topic? What, specifically, about the idea or topic do you want students to come to understand?

Why study ____________? So what?
What makes the study of ____________ universal?
If the unit on ____________ is a story, what’s the moral of the story?
What’s the Big Idea implied in the skill or process of ____________?
What larger concept, issue, or problem underlies ____________?
What couldn’t we do if we didn’t understand ____________?
How is ____________ used and applied in a larger world?
What is real-world insight about ____________?
What is the value of studying ____________?

Essential Questions:

Understandings: