**Essential Question Selection**

The sooner you decide upon your essential question, the sooner you can begin your research.

Use this document to help you tighten  your focus (or in some cases, expand it further out).

What about this subject matter interests you?  What do you want to know more about?

Select three essential questions that reflect your interests.

* ***How is resistance and rebellion necessary to maintain a civil and just society?***
* ***How does language influence a society's perceptions, thoughts, and actions?***
* ***Is prejudice a product of nature or nurture, and why does that matter?***
* ***How can one individual make a measurable difference in the world?***
* ***How can a society that considered itself to be the apex of civilization systematically murder innocent men, women, and children in order to “better” that same society?***
* ***What is more powerful -- hope or fear?  Why does this matter?***
* ***How does a society's choice to be inclusive or exclusive affect that society?***
* ***What is the purpose of remembering conflict and tragedies?  What is the cost of forgetting?***

Now dig deeper.  Ask yourself questions about the stories of individual people, their written and spoken words, and their motivations and actions.  Or perhaps inquire about issues related to identity and human nature and how people affect each other. Or examine the role of empathy, tolerance, and intellectual thought and how it can work to balance out fear, anger, and ignorance. Investigate what might be at the **root** of the questions that you’re beginning to explore.

* Use the back of this handout to continue breaking down the ideas in your three potential EQs with the goal of selecting one to pursue in your research.

**Essential Question Development and Research**

Essential Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Your goal as you research is to synthesize the information and ideas you discover in order to answer the above EQ.  **Your answer, expressed in one sentence, will function as the thesis statement for your paper.**Most EQs address a fundamental problem our world faces; therefore, your thesis should present a solution to this problem.

Define, develop, and elaborate on the key words  (and their synonyms) in your EQ.

Below please collect the basic information of your sources in order to track your work in finding evidence.  You will also need to record the required bibliographic information for these sources using MLA formatting; however, that will be catalogued on your Works Cited page of your portfolio.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Primary Sources** | | | |
| *Text-based Title* | *Text printed and carefully*  *annotated?* | *Usefulness towards claim? (Use scale 1-10.  1-useless, 10-extremely valuable)* | *To what does it connect?*  *-Life and work of Anne Frank*  *-WW2/Holocaust*  *-Present Day* |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Primary Source** | | | |
| *Artifact Description / Title* | *Image printed and carefully*  *annotated?* | *Usefulness towards claim? (Use scale 1-10.  1-useless, 10-extremely valuable)* | *To what does it connect?*  *-Life and work of Anne Frank*  *-WW2/Holocaust*  *-Present Day* |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Secondary  Source** | | | |
| *Text-based Title* | *Text printed and carefully*  *annotated?* | *Usefulness towards claim? (Use scale 1-10.  1-useless, 10-extremely valuable)* | *To what does it connect?*  *-Life and work of Anne Frank*  *-WW2/Holocaust*  *-Present Day* |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |