

The Essential Essential Question Generator

What's the **Broad Topic** that you are interested in exploring?
 (e.g., nuclear waste, health care, educational reform, history of commercial aviation)

Statements Generator -

Moving to a more focused topic

Broad topic + Words and phrases = General Statement
 (not necessarily a sentence)

Broad topic word or phrase about
Conflict

Broad topic word or phrase about
Contribution

Broad topic word or phrase about
Description

Broad topic word or phrase about
Development

Examples:

- ⊕ The **conflict** over where to store **nuclear waste**
- ⊕ The crucial **contribution** of the military in the development of the DC-3 in the early years of commercial aviation
- ⊕ Guide on the side is a **description** of the teaching model now being promoted in **educational reform**

- ⊕ The **development** of safe disposal of **nuclear waste** is imperative.

Make a Claim or an Assertion

(Take a look at the statements generated, they are still a little vague. By making a claim or assertion you succeed in narrowing the focus because you will be making them into full-fledged sentences.)

Examples:

- ⊕ The conflict over where to store nuclear waste has pitted individual states against each other. No one wants to win the nuclear waste depository prize.
- ⊕ In the early years of commercial aviation, the military crucially contributed to the way the DC-3 developed.
- ⊕ Educational reform models are not considered successful unless teachers in reform school move from the sage-on-the-stage to the guide-on-the-side teaching style
- ⊕ If we do not develop better methods of nuclear waste disposal, we will contaminate the aquifers of all fifty states.

Generate your Claims/Assertions below
One of these will eventually become your thesis statement

Inventory I

What do you already know about this topic:

These will likely be broad statements, common knowledge kinds of things
(Example: Nuclear waste sites are being investigated because of contamination of their surrounding areas.)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Inventory II

What is it that the reader wants to know or needs to know more about? (Relevancy, why should anyone else care?) These will likely be more specific than the items that you have listed above.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Now it's time to move into QUESTION form

Why a question? Because we generate better ideas and make connections that we are unable to make if we are only using assertions. They help us come up with the feeder questions that we need to research to answer our essential question.

Examples:

- ⊕ What are the overriding factors in the nuclear waste storage that make state governments so adamant about not wanting a nuclear waste facility located in their state?
- ⊕ What would have happened to commercial aviation if the military had not been consulted or used as a resource?
- ⊕ Is the guide-on-the-side teaching style the most important factor in successful educational reform?
- ⊕ What are the short- and long-range effects of nuclear waste contamination of the nation's aquifers?

Generate your Question(s) Here

1.

2.

3.

4.

Compare your question to the criteria needed for on the Essential Questions Rubric
 When you have a suitable question, use the Questions Development Graphic Organizer to help work up feeder/subsidiary questions. Be sure to go back to Inventory II in this organizer at this point. You have already done some of the feeder question work there.

Stuck? Use the **SCAMPER** Questioning Strategies to give your brain a twist and get going again.

Substitute,	Who else could have _____?
Combine,	If there were another author/influence, who could it have been?
Add,	What would _____ have written or done, in the future or in another situation?
Modify, Magnify, Minify,	What could we modify to intensify to change, to show ?
Put to other uses,	How does this apply to _____ (choose someone or something that is not directly involved with the activity)?
Eliminate,	What would be the effects of eliminating _____?
Reverse	What is the antithesis (direct opposite) of _____'s view?