



ESSENTIAL QUESTION CHEAT SHEET



National Standards Essential Questions

EQs written by the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) on behalf of NCCAS

- What conditions, attitudes, and behaviors support creativity and innovative thinking?
- What factors prevent or encourage people to take creative risks?
- How does collaboration expand the creative process?
- How does knowing the contexts, histories, and traditions of art forms help us create works of art and design? Why do artists follow or break from established traditions?
- How do artists determine what resources and criteria are needed to formulate artistic investigations? How do artists work?
- How do artists and designers determine whether a particular direction in their work is effective? How do artists and designers learn from trial and error?
- How do artists and designers care for and maintain materials, tools, and equipment?
- What responsibilities come with the freedom to create?
- How do objects, places, and design shape lives and communities?
- How do artists and designers determine goals for designing or redesigning objects, places, or systems? How do artists and designers create works of art or design that effectively communicate?
- What role does persistence play in revisiting, refining, and developing work?
- How do artists grow and become accomplished in art forms?
- How does collaboratively reflecting on a work help us experience it more fully and develop it more completely? Why do people value objects, artifacts, and artworks and select them for presentation?
- How does refining an artwork affect its meaning to the viewer?
- What criteria are considered when selecting work for presentation, a portfolio, or a collection?
- What is the purpose of an art museum?
- How does the presenting and sharing of artworks influence and shape ideas, beliefs, and experiences?
- How do life experiences influence the way you relate to art?
- How does learning about art impact how we perceive the world?
- What can we learn from our responses to art?
- What is an image?
- When and how do we encounter images in our world?
- How do images influence our view of the world?
- What is the value of engaging in the process of art criticism?
- How can the viewer “read” a work of art?
- How does knowing and using visual art vocabularies help us understand and interpret works of art?
- How does one determine criteria to evaluate a work of art?
- How and why might criteria vary?
- How is a personal preference different from and evaluation?

Remember:

When writing Essential Questions, begin them with WHY or HOW!

Essential questions must be...

1. Open-ended
2. Provocative
3. Answered with evidence
4. Be revisited over and over