

## Civics for All Essential Questions

1. How should we define the Common Good and should government adopt liberal or conservative policies to achieve it?
2. How should we balance individual rights and freedoms with the Common Good?
3. Why and how should citizens exercise their civic duty to increase equity and the legitimacy of government?
4. How does democracy depend on a free press and a media literate citizenry?
5. Should US foreign policy be determined by our national self-interest or the “interests” of the entire world?
6. Should we interpret the Constitution as a living document or settled law?

**Notes:** a) *The essential civics questions above would be on banners in all K-12 social studies classrooms.*  
b) *Vertically aligned, common essential questions are a widely vetted but infrequently emphasized pedagogical structure. Recursive, year to year use of such questions encourages teaching and learning about core questions and allows all students to deepen their understanding within their varying zones of proximal development (ZPD).* c) *These Civics for All Essential questions are partially drawn from and align with the Seattle Public Schools K-12 excellent yet lengthy set of essential civics questions that vary from year to year.*