Sample Essential Questions—and Related Academic Content

The following Essential Questions are taken from projects in High Tech High K–12 schools and beyond.

Essential Question: Should I Eat That?
*Biology, Physiology, Anatomy, History, Cultural & Religious Studies, English, Geography, Government, Economics, Math*

Essential Question: What Does It Mean to Act Like a Girl?
*Elementary school project into identity and gender norms.*

Essential Question: Can We Control an Ecosystem?
*Environmental Science, Engineering, Ecology, Physics, Chemistry*

Essential Question: How Can We Create a Peaceful Community?
*Elementary school project to start the school year, and to delve into civic engagement.*

Essential Question: When is the “Correct Answer” Not the Best Solution?
*Mathematics, History, World Cultures, English, Engineering*

Essential Question: What is The Magic of Toys?
*Elementary school project in engineering, design, empathy interviews, writing, drawing.*

Essential Question: Is it Safe to Go in the Water?
*Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, History, English, Journalism, Multimedia, Geography, Government, Economics,

Essential Question: Should I Say That? And—Am I Responsible for What You Hear?
*History, Cultural & Religious Studies, English, Geography, Government, Multimedia, Art*

Essential Question: Why Do I Live Here? And Why Do They Live There?
*Geography, Mathematics, History, World Cultures, Economics*

Essential Question: How Has War Impacted My Life?
*History, Statistics, Mathematics, Geography, Economics, English, Chemistry*

Essential Question: How Can I Improve Someone’s Life With An Idea?
*Engineering, Design, Mathematics, English, Physics*

To learn more about this resource and others, visit hightechhigh.org and gse.hightechhigh.org