Criteria for Developing Essential Questions

| more effective | less effective |

open-ended with many possible answers — closed with a clear answer or answers

inspires **exploration and inquiry** — does not inspire research and the independent pursuit of additional knowledge

invites **additional questions** — does not allow for generative additional questions

applies to learners of **any age** — question is too complicated or simplistic

contains **big ideas** that inspire classroom interdisciplinary experiences — specific to one particular idea or topic