

## Essential Questions for ELA 10-2

### *What is an essential question?*

An essential question is one that has no concrete or solid correct answer. It may be answered differently by different people. The purpose of an essential question is to stimulate thought and to evoke multiple perspectives. A person's response to an essential question will often change according to life experiences. The following are essential questions that will be considered in this course when doing literary exploration.

### *How do I write about an essential question?*

For example:

~~In your opinion,~~ are people often **influenced** by others?

~~In your opinion,~~ are people affected by **choices** they make?

~~In your opinion,~~ can a strong sense of **determination** help people to achieve life goals?

~~In your opinion,~~ is having **courage** an important life quality?

~~In your opinion,~~ do people feel the need to **belong**?

### **Changing an essential question into a general thesis statement:**

You can ignore the "In your opinion" part of the question, as this only means that this will be a personal response where you present your thoughts and feelings on the topic. Therefore, you may just take what is left of the question and make it into a statement instead of a question, and you will have formed a general thesis statement! It is not really difficult, so don't let the words "thesis statement" scare you off.

Examples:

People are often **influenced** by others.

People are often **affected** by choices they make.

A strong sense of **determination** can help people to achieve life goals.

Having **courage** is an important life quality.

People need to feel as if they **belong**.

**While you do not have to agree, for this beginner's paper, I suggest you agree totally, or at least in some ways. This keeps your thesis statement development and support easier for you to create.**