

## Big Questions Essay Prompt

One of the goals of First-Year Seminars is to enable students to make the transition from high school learners to university scholars. A key component of this transition is the ability to define and discuss questions of enduring and contemporary significance. These are the big questions that drive intellectual inquiry and that explore the many facets of the human condition. This assignment asks you to identify one such big question your course has encountered and to explain the complexities and implications of the question.

Your final product for this assignment will be an essay of at least 500-words. To get started, consider the following prompts, meant to help you invent ideas and organize your thoughts:

- How do you articulate the big question of your course? What language is important to the question? Why?
- What makes the question difficult or complex? What leads people to debate answers to the question?
- What, if any, are the social and global implications of the question?

Your essay should demonstrate your best ability to define your course's big question and to discuss its complexities. Use these requirements to shape your essay:

- Offer a clear, concise version of the question in language that is drawn from your course discussions and is appropriate for college-level readers.
- Explain what makes the question interesting and debatable.
- Discuss specific examples from class discussions, readings, and other sources.
- Include a works cited page if necessary.
- Revise, edit, and proofread your work according to college-level expectations for diction, syntax, and correctness.