Essential Questions for Writers and for Writing Teachers
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For the Writer

- Why am I writing? For whom?
- How can I find ideas for my writing?
- How can I discover the information I need to develop this piece of writing?
- How does becoming a better reader help me become a better writer?
- How can I adapt the writing process to make it work best for me?
- How is information organized?
- Why is information organized in different ways?
- How can I organize my thinking and the information I have to support my thinking, in order to persuade others?
- In what genre (form/structure) should I communicate this information? Why?
- Have I included the most important and most effective information in my writing in a way that helps my audience connect the pieces of what I have to say?
- How can I express big ideas concisely...and how is that different from simply being brief?
- What needs changing in the world?
- How can my voice make a difference in my community and the world?
- How can persuasive writing serve as a vehicle for social change?
- What can I learn about my own language and culture from the study of others?
- How does word choice affect meaning?
- Which words matter most here? What do they mean?

For the Writing Teacher

- Why teach writing?
- What makes any writing worth reading?
- Why is writing a powerful form of expression of ideas and emotions?
- How does understanding writing processes help writers craft an effective piece of writing?
- How do writers vary their writing for different purposes and audiences?
- Why do writers choose a particular genre (fiction, poetry, journal, biography, autobiography) to tell the stories of their journeys?
- How does using process writing approaches help with descriptive, narrative, persuasive and informational writing in all grade levels and across all disciplines?
- How does feedback drive better student writing?
- How do effective writers hook and hold their readers?
- How does a good writer use language choices to write more clearly, powerfully, and creatively?
- What roles do grammar and mechanics play in crafting a solid piece of writing?
- What are the connections between reading and writing?