



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

Gen Ed Revitalization II



Big Questions



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What is a BQ

- BQ Requirement
 - Each GE class must have a Big Question (BQ)

- BQ Defined

The Big Question is open-ended, taps into the heart of the discipline, provides an opportunity for integration and connection to personal/social/ professional issues, and addresses the question of “*What can I do with this knowledge?*”



What is a BQ

- BQ Defined

- The definition highlights key features of a BQ

- It's open ended meaning that there is no simple right answer

- It's meant to be investigated, argued about, and looked at from different points of view

- It goes to the heart a discipline and may be found in the important/controversial disciplinary problems and topics

- It encourages active “meaning making” by the learner about significant concepts and ideas presented in the GE class



Why Big Questions

- 1. Deeper Learning
 - The BQ makes transparent the significance of course content by providing an organization or a frame for the class
- 2. Branding GE classes
 - BQs in GE classes provide a unique branding of them to both students and to faculty
 - It's important that students and faculty recognize GE classes as distinct from major ones in a many ways



Developing, Using, and Updating BQs

- To identify a BQ for your class, first consider its goals
 - From the list of what students should know, understand, and be able to do by the end of the class, identify the subset that can be identified as *enduring understandings*
 - Enduring understandings are the big ideas, important concepts, and/or key skills that you want students to retain after the details of the class fade



Developing, Using, and Updating BQs

- Pedagogical Uses of BQ
 - The BQ can be a theme running through the class
 - BQ should be identified in the syllabus (see Syllabus Blurb) and recur by being posed and partially answered, re-asked, answered in a new, improved, or different way, and so on
 - The BQ can help prepare students to successfully complete the required signature assignment (SA)



Developing, Using, and Updating BQs

- Revising BQs
 - We expect that BQs will be refined, reconsidered, and updated over time
 - There is no one right BQ for a class, only one that is practical and effective in helping students learn

