**Essential Questions in Core French**

*(examples)*

Motivation/Goals/Benefits

• Why learn another language?

• What are my motivations to learn another language?

• What are my expectations about learning another language?

• Where does this language live in my community?

• How will learning a language enhance my life?

• How might learning a language open “doors of opportunity”?

# Learning Process

• What language learning skills do I already have?

• How can I use my existing communication skills to learn a new

language?

• What are different language learning styles?

• How do I determine the most effective language learning style for me?

• How do I best learn other skills?

• What strategies and resources will help me learn another language?

• What qualities do I need to learn a 2nd language?

• How can I sound more like a native speaker?

• How can one express complex ideas using simple terms?

• What do I hear when I listen?

• How do I figure out meaning when words are not understood?

• What do I do when I am stuck?

# Communication

• Why isn't a dictionary enough?

• Why don't you have to translate everything?

• How do native speakers differ from fluent foreigners?

• In what ways do languages convey meaning?

• How do people communicate without using language?

• What strategies can I use to communicate more effectively?

• How fluent do I need to be in speaking and/or writing a new language

in order to be able to communicate effectively?

• How does language change in different situations?

• What can you do to keep the conversation going?

Why don’t you use the same words, expressions, etc. with everyone? …

in every situation?

• What do I do when my ideas are more sophisticated than my ability to

communicate them?

• What can I do when I do not have the words to say what I am thinking?

• How do I keep a conversation going?

• How does body language complement the words? How and when might

it compete with them?

• What are the benefits of taking a chance in language? …the risks?

• What mistakes are worth making?

• When should you speak in the formal vs. informal manner (2nd person singular)?

• To what extent are English and French different (e.g. past tenses)?

• How would communication be different (or limited) without tenses?

# Culture and Language

• What is culture?

• Why study another culture?

• How does where I live shape who I am?

• How are language and culture linked?

• What can I learn about my own language and culture from the study

of others?

• How can I enhance my connections with people through language?

• How does the study of another language and culture make the world

smaller?

• How can learning and using a language help me assimilate into a new

culture?

• How can cultural awareness enhance my language learning and vice

versa?

• How do I feel when someone from another culture speaks my language?

• How does language shape culture? How does culture shape language ?

• How can I explore other cultures without stereotyping ?

• What is it like to be a “foreigner”?

**Enduring Understandings --** *\*not yet categorized*

*(examples)*

* You can learn a 2nd (or 3rd) language.
* You already have language and communication skills that you can utilize while learning a new language.
* The goal is effective communication, not word-for-word translation.
* There are multiple ways to say the same thing.
* Accuracy is the result of experience (deliberate speaking and listening) and self-reflection.
* People have different styles of learning a language.
* Learning a language is an on-going process.
* Refinement comes from practice.
* You can’t identify and correct your mistakes unless you have the courage to make them.
* A dictionary doesn’t give you syntax.
* The recognition and use of patterns of verb forms gives the speaker a wider range of communication skills.
* Learning a second language will open doors for you professionally and personally.
* Language connects people.
* People appreciate your effort to learn and use their language.
* “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, it goes to his heart.” —Nelson Mandela
* Learning another language will open the door to a new culture. Language and culture are inextricably linked.
* Communicating is more than using a new language.
* Learning a language takes motivation, perseverance, practice and ….
* You are judged by what you say and how you say it.
* Body language (can) change statements to questions, affirmations, to

negations and impacts the intensity of a statement.

* Some words are more important than others.
* Speaking is not the only form of communication.
* Some gestures are culture-specific.
* Conversations are more than questions and answers.
* Language requires you to solve problems.
* Structures and writing systems of the target language and English have similarities and differences.
* Different linguistic structures communicate different meanings.
* The language we use changes with the situation.

Source: Jay McTighe, 2003