Essential Questions for Government/Politics

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* Who should govern or rule?
* Should the majority always rule?
* Why have rules/laws?
* When, if ever, can rules/laws be broken?
* What are the limits of government control of individuals?
* How do governments balance the rights of individuals with the common good?
* What are “inalienable rights”?
* How do structures and functions of government interrelate?
* How do political systems differ in toleration/encouragement of change?
* How do personal responsibilities and civic responsibilities differ?
* Can an individual really make a difference?
* What are the roles and responsibilities of citizens? Elected officials?
* What is a good citizen?
* How do citizens (both individually and collectively) influence government policy?
* What is power? What forms does power take?
* How is power gained, used, and justified?
* How can abuse of power be avoided? What constitutes a great leader?
* Are great leaders made or born?
* In what ways are language and power inseparable?

Others

* Why do we need government?
* What would happen without government?
* How did government originate?
* How do types of governments differ and why does it matter?
* By what criteria do people judge government systems as good or bad? How do they justify those judgments?