

Winter 2008 Conference

Critical Thinking in the Age of the Internet

February 15-16, 2008

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel • Bloomington, MN

Call for Proposals deadline: September 21, 2007

The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching & Learning invites proposals from college and university faculty, staff, administrators, and students for concurrent sessions on the conference theme. We especially encourage proposals for sessions that will promote stimulating dialogue, reflect diverse perspectives, and involve student presenters or co-presenters from across institutions. Proposals are peer reviewed and sessions are selected based on criteria listed on page two.

Educating students to be critical thinkers has long been a goal of colleges and universities and the focus of many faculty development programs. However, higher education institutions are facing significant new challenges addressing the critical thinking needs of the Net Generation. Many of today's college students have the latest technologies at their fingertips. Their comfort and skill in manipulating the latest hardware and software far exceeds any previous generation. Yet the growing social, economic, political, health, and environmental challenges we face demand that their abilities to research effectively, think critically, and communicate clearly need to be nurtured more urgently than ever before. These challenges and opportunities are the focus of The Collaboration's winter 2008 conference.

We live in a rapidly evolving global environment in which new technologies deliver the latest-and sometimes unverified-news and information to our cell phones, BlackBerries®, and laptops in a matter of seconds. What does this environment mean for teaching and developing critical thinking skills? What new opportunities exist as a result of the revolution in how students learn, the technological skills and prior experience they bring into the college setting, and the new and emerging technologies available to us as educators? What new challenges-including easier access to information and electronic research materials and greater opportunities for cheating-do new technologies pose for the teaching of critical thinking? How should we connect critical thinking to other important skills, such as intercultural competence, emotional intelligence, and ethical reasoning?

We invite proposals for concurrent sessions that disseminate and model effective practice; promote stimulating dialogue, inquiry, and problem-solving; or engage participants in exploring opportunities for post-conference inter-institutional collaboration on topics such as these:

- Understanding the characteristics and theoretical models of critical thinking
- Documenting the importance of critical thinking for success in the classroom and workplace, as responsible citizens, etc.
- Demonstrating strategies, tools, and techniques for fostering critical thinking in and out of the classroom
- Promoting information literacy, including ways to discriminate among electronic sources
- Helping students develop an ethical orientation with respect to cheating and plagiarism
- Exploring the implications for the teaching of critical thinking on how Net Gen students learn
- Showcasing the use of new technologies to teach critical thinking
- Exploring diverse approaches to teaching critical thinking, such as through visual, creative, or online tools or connections with quantitative literacy
- Assessing critical thinking in new and more effective ways

See "Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal" on the following page.

Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal

The following guidelines are based on past evaluations and Collaboration policy. Please read these instructions carefully and be sure to submit all three sections of the session proposal (cover sheet, narrative, and abstract).

1

COVER SHEET

Session title: Craft a title that is clear and concise (10 words or less) and will pique participant interest. Participants want practical ideas and information that they can apply in their own settings. Choose a title that clearly conveys the subject of your session so that participants know what to expect. Appeal to a broad mix of participants, and avoid using language that might limit your audience.

Presenters: Teams of two to four presenters are most effective. Keep in mind the length and content of your session, and plan ways for all presenters to contribute in a meaningful way.

Successful sessions often include undergraduate student presenters or others who can lend different perspectives, such as faculty from different disciplines, student development staff, or administrators. Note that undergraduate student presenters from Collaboration member institutions can register for free.

Presenter commitment: By submitting this proposal, you are indicating that you are all available, committed to participating, and prepared to register at the regular conference fees. Presenters whose paid registrations have not been received at least two weeks before the conference may be dropped from the program.

Audio-visual request: Equipment rental is expensive and must be covered by fees, so please consider your request carefully. If you need a laptop computer for your session, you will need to bring your own. If you plan to show web pages, download them onto your laptop instead of requesting a live Internet connection. For other equipment, we will meet your needs within reasonable limits of cost and availability.

2

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL

Your narrative should be two to three pages in length and address the following:

Topic: Explain clearly what your session is about, how it relates to the conference theme, and the intended audience.

Rationale: Explain why your topic will be of interest to your intended audience, including any connections with current research literature or education trends.

Goals: Clearly identify what your audience will learn. Participants are interested in gaining practical, innovative strategies and techniques that they can use in their own classes and programs.

Participant involvement: The Collaboration has a commitment to active, inclusive learning and to modeling outstanding teaching. We encourage presenters to provide opportunities for meaningful interaction. Activities should be designed to help participants achieve the learning goals for the session; they should not be "busywork."

Organization: Regular sessions are 75 minutes. Double sessions, which are less frequent, are 2 1/2 hours, plus a break. Plan carefully to achieve your goals in the allotted time. Provide a timeline for your session, outlining the sequence of activities and providing short descriptions to explain them. For example:

Introductions and Icebreaker (10 minutes)
Interactive Presentation (identify key points) (15 minutes)
Activity 1 (describe) (15 minutes)
Group Discussion (10 minutes)
Activity 2 (describe) (15 minutes)
Review and Reflect (5 minutes)
Wrap-up and Evaluation (5 minutes)

Materials: Provide participants with copies of overhead transparencies, PowerPoint slides, or other material you use. Provide a bibliography or resource list, if appropriate.

Session results: How will you know whether participants have achieved your learning goals? Please offer something concrete, such as "participants will develop a plan for identifying the relevant characteristics, backgrounds, and needs of their students on the first day of class."

3

ABSTRACT

Content: Your abstract should be 120 words or less.

If your proposal is accepted, your abstract will be used to market your session to potential participants. It should communicate your session plan clearly and accurately, so that participants know what to expect. A useful approach is to explain (1) what your session is about, (2) what participants will experience and do, (3) what they will learn, and (4) what materials, if any, they will take away. If you develop your plan further after the abstract is published, be sure to honor what you promise in the abstract so participants aren't disappointed.

Style: Use the active voice wherever possible, and avoid unexplained acronyms and jargon.

QUESTIONS?

Contact The Collaboration at (651) 646-6166 or collab@collab.org. Additional information on this and previous conferences is available on our website at www.collab.org.

Proposal Cover Sheet

Critical Thinking in the Age of the Internet

Proposals must be received by **September 21, 2007**. Please complete the following according to the "Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal": (a) this cover sheet, (b) your narrative proposal (2-3 pages), and (c) your abstract (no more than 120 words).

We will notify you of your proposal's status in October and will be preparing the conference brochure in October and November. Please make certain we will be able to reach your primary contact during that time (see below).

1. SESSION TITLE:

2. PRESENTERS: In most instances, we recommend limiting the number of presenters to four. If necessary, list additional presenters on a separate sheet and include rationale in the proposal narrative. For titles, use "associate professor," "dean," etc. For students, list year in college and major, (see "c" and "d" below). If there will be more than one presenter, designate one individual as the primary contact person.

a. Primary Contact

Title _____

Department _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

b Name

Title _____

Department _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

c. Name

Title _____

Department _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Student Presenter Major _____

Student Presenter Year in College _____

d. Name

Title _____

Department _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Student Presenter Major _____

Student Presenter Year in College _____

3. INTENDED AUDIENCE(S): Faculty Academic Administrators Student Affairs Faculty Developers

4. INTENDED AUDIENCE'S LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE WITH TOPIC: Low Intermediate Advanced

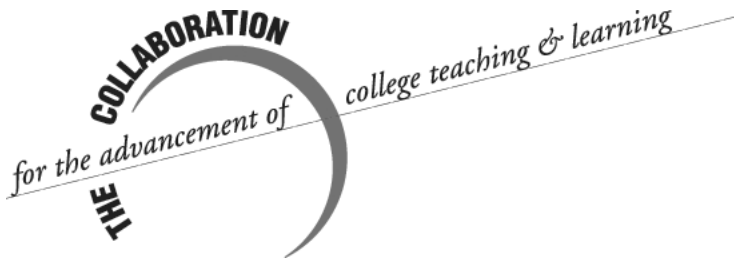
5. FORMAT (check one): regular session (75 min.) workshop (2 1/2 hrs.)

6. AUDIO-VISUAL REQUEST: See the instructions under "Tips for a Successful Proposal."

Flipchart Overhead Projector Screen VCR/Monitor DVD/Monitor Internet Connection LCD Projector

PRESENTER AGREEMENT: *If selected, we agree to offer the proposed session, to pay registration fees no later than two weeks before the conference, and to participate throughout the conference.*

SIGNATURE OF LEAD PRESENTER: _____



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