The conference is designed to empower participants both theoretically and pragmatically. All sessions are grounded in carefully refined concepts and provide practical ways to come to terms with critical thinking practices. There are many ways to begin to implement critical thinking; participants will be exposed to a variety of strategies to improve teaching and learning. This will include ways to design instruction so that on a typical day, students will take ownership of the content they are learning. It will include strategies in the art of critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening. All sessions will entail active participation by all attendees. Expect lively discussions and a meaningful exchange of ideas with other participants. New registrants will be introduced to the foundations of critical thinking; returning registrants will deepen their understanding of critical thinking and their ability to foster it.
ABOUT US:
The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking are sister institutions which focus on the
cultivation of fairminded critical societies.
Throughout our work we emphasize and argue for the importance of teaching for critical
thinking in a strong, rather than a weak, sense. We are committed to a clear and “substantive”
concept of critical thinking (rather than one that is ill-defined): a concept that interfaces well
with the disciplines, that integrates critical with creative thinking, that applies directly to the
needs of everyday and professional life, that emphasizes the affective and cognitive dimensions of
critical thinking, and that highlights intellectual standards and traits. We advocate a concept of
critical thinking that organizes instruction in every subject area at every educational level.
All conference sessions will be designed to converge on basic critical thinking principles and to
enrich a core concept of critical thinking. Many offer practical teaching and learning strategies.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:

CONFERENCE DAY ONE (July 23)
Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address for all attendees…
- Why Intellectual Traits Are Essential to Critical Thinking… Linda Elder and Gerald Nosich

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)…
- Using Peer Review on a Typical Day to Foster Substantive Critical Thinking… Carmen Polka
- Teaching Students to Use Critical Thinking Standards to Assess Reasoning… Gerald Nosich
- Bringing Rigorous Standards for Thought to Business and Government for Higher Level Reasoning… Brian Barnes

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (afternoon)…
- Teaching Students to Think Within the Logic of a Field or Discipline… Gerald Nosich
- Fostering Critical Thinking in the Secondary Classroom… Paul Bankes
- Tools of Rigorous Analysis for Business and Government… Brian Barnes
- Advanced Session: Why I Read in the Classics and Why Students (and You) Should Too… Linda Elder

CONFERENCE DAY TWO (July 24)
Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)…
- Bringing Robust Questions into Teaching and Learning at a Practical Level… Brian Barnes
- Helping Students Think Through Complexities Using Critical Thinking… Gerald Nosich
- For Administrators: How to Develop a Successful Long-Term Staff Development Plan that Fosters Critical Thinking… Paul Bankes and Carmen Polka

For all attendees (afternoon)…
- Roundtable Discussions: Choose at the conference.

Choose one of the following sessions to attend (afternoon)…
- Using the Practical Tools of Critical Thinking to Teach Students How to Study and Learn… Gerald Nosich
- Cultivating Evidence-Based Decision- Making in Business and Government… Brian Barnes
- Liberating the Mind Through Critical Thinking… Linda Elder

CONFERENCE DAY THREE (July 25)
- Concurrent Sessions: Choose at the conference.

CONFERENCE DAY FOUR (July 26)
Choose one of the following sessions to attend (morning)…
- Designing Instruction So That Students Learn to Think Things Through… Gerald Nosich
- Critical Reading as a Primary Tool for Educating the Mind… Carmen Polka
- Tackling Climate Change Through the Tools of Criticality… Brian Barnes

Closing session for all attendees…
- Bringing It All Together and Beginning to Develop a Plan for Moving Forward… All Fellows and Scholars

After the Conference - (Day four afternoon)…
- International Summit on the Advancement of Critical Thinking Across the World… everyone invited, see website for details

Registration Fees:
Early-Bird Rates – if paid by May 22, 2020:
Main Conference Only – $790
Main Conference & Pre-Conference – $995

Standard Rates – if paid AFTER May 22, 2020:
Main Conference Only – $870
Main Conference & Pre-Conference – $1,095
(Price is per attendee; check website for group rates.)

Celebrating 40 years of working toward essential change in education and society through the cultivation of fairminded critical thinking.