



## Think 2 Impact: Developing Critical Thinking Skills Quality Enhancement Plan of Montreat College

### Executive Summary

The Montreat College Quality Enhancement Plan, Think to Impact (T2I), seeks to develop the critical thinking skills of our students in order to prepare them to graciously impact the world. The T2I QEP aligns with the college's mission statement: Montreat College is an independent, Christ-centered, liberal arts institution that educates students through intellectual inquiry, spiritual formation, and preparation for calling and career, all to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

The QEP Committee designed Think to Impact plan as a response to faculty and staff focus groups and a campus wide survey that asked the participants to provide their feedback on areas needing improvement. As a result of the survey, the QEP Committee identified critical thinking as the central topic. After listening sessions and literature reviews on best practices the QEP Committee developed the following student learning outcomes (SLOs) for T2I: Think to Impact:

1. SLO 1- **Identify**: Students will be able to identify or derive alternative interpretations of data or observations.

The *Identify Tier* will take place in required first-year courses. In these courses, students are introduced to the foundations of critical thinking: asking questions for the purpose of identifying alternative perspectives and interpretations of information.

2. SLO 2- **Recognize**: Students will be able to recognize new information that might support or contradict a hypothesis.

The *Recognize Tier* is for students within their major course work, with the purpose of reinforcing critical thinking within their major, through recognizing how information may support or contradict various field related criteria.

3. SLO 3- **Explain**: Students will be able to explain how new information can change their understanding and ability to address a problem, so they can graciously and effectively engage with the world.

The *Explain Tier* will take place within a required senior level course with the purpose of empowering students to implement the skills developed in *Launch* and *Reinforce* tiers. Students at the *Explain* tier will implement the skill of effective communication that demonstrates creative problem solving around relevant contemporary issues.

The SLOs are assessed regularly by faculty committees using a common rubric to measure the progress of critical thinking development across our undergraduate community. Creating a culture of critical thinking extends beyond the classrooms and into social spaces-- from cohorts of peers that meet regularly to engage in discussions on current issues, to peer led events and campus wide forums designed to encourage critical conversations, Think to Impact is meant to create habits of intellectual inquiry as stated in Montreat's mission.

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