



On the Move Together to Think Critically: Developing and enhancing critical thinking skills driven by reading and responding to a wide range of literature.

Southwestern Christian College

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Executive Summary

General Characteristics of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Focus:

The focus of the quality enhancement plan at Southwestern Christian College is “*developing and enhancing critical thinking skills driven by reading and responding to a wide range of literature.*”

The QEP will allow SwCC to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address improving students’ critical thinking skills while continuing to develop reading comprehension skills. SwCC solicited broad-based input from faculty, staff, students, and area employers regarding the selection of a QEP topic. Two topics frequently emerged: improving critical thinking skills and improving reading skills. Our solution was to suggest a way to improve critical thinking skills by reading literature, thereby addressing both skills in one topic.

QEP Goal

The goal of the QEP is to develop a strategic plan to improve critical thinking skills in our students as a direct result of reading and responding to a wide range of literature.

QEP Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Through participation in the QEP initiatives, students will be able to:

- identify and articulate a writer’s main point, purpose, audience, and major support in essays on a variety of topics.
- formulate an original thesis in their own writing and develop it into a well-supported argument while evaluating the credibility of sources and incorporating sources correctly and effectively in their writing.
- draw logical inferences to arrive at an interpretation, and create and support a response leading to logical conclusions.
- determine the validity of the writer’s argument and assess the strength of the argument and the implications for a course of action that follows from it.

QEP Engagement Outcome

Through professional development training, faculty and staff will engage in all opportunities to administer critical thinking activities and assessments for our students. Students will participate in a variety of projects that stimulate critical thinking skills.

QEP Assessment

All faculty and staff will receive required training in using our learning management system to create and import SLOs, assignments, rubrics, and assessments in critical thinking. Those that currently have SLOs in critical thinking in their syllabus may continue to use those, though the specific QEP cohort of faculty will be using the resources created by a collaboration between those instructors and the committee. We will have ongoing student performance and faculty engagement assessments to measure the effectiveness of the QEP, which the College will detail in the QEP fifth-year Impact Report.