

CONNECTIONS 5: A Conference of Critical Thinking: "A Single Rain": Using Biomimicry to Think and to Solve



Critical thinking is an important aspect of education across disciplines, and many institutions are working to promote and focus on the integration of critical thinking exercises in their curriculum. Today it has moved beyond traditional formal reasoning to incorporate essential skills—such as problem solving, communication, and creativity—that are necessary to maneuver through modern information overload. This is arguably one of the most important skills students can learn, and it can be applied to every discipline. At East Georgia State College, the promotion of critical thinking is an important component of the curriculum, and this conference is organized to allow educators, students, and independent scholars to share both research and practical applications of critical thinking in the classroom.

CALL FOR PAPERS

In *Walden, or Life in the Woods*, Henry David Thoreau wrote: "A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts." For East Georgia State College's fifth annual Critical Thinking Conference, taking place on Friday, September 29, 2017, we welcome proposals that respond to the use of biomimicry, where the main problem-solving question is "What would nature do?" Indeed, nature is a masterful designer and problem solver, and learning from and applying nature's principles can provide "better thoughts" as we think critically about the challenges we face. We welcome presentations that demonstrate a use of biomimicry and invite scholars to visit www.asknature.org to deepen and "brighten" further critical thinking ideas. We also welcome proposals on any other topics that deal with critical thinking in an educational setting.

Faculty, students, and independent scholars are invited to provide individual and panel proposal summaries through EGSC's electronic Proposal Submission Form (<https://myegsc.ega.edu/web/pages/6>). Proposals should be no more than 250 words, and final presentations should be no more than 20 minutes reading time in length (approximately 10 typed, double-spaced pages).

Please submit your proposals by Friday, September 8, 2017.