

The Academy for Educational Studies
presents the

Critical Questions in Education Conference



October 19th and 20th, 2009
St. Louis Union Station Marriott
St. Louis, MO



Proposals are being solicited for the fifth annual Critical Questions in Education conference presented by the Academy for Educational Studies. This year the conference will take place at the St. Louis Union Station Marriott in St. Louis, Missouri, October 19th and 20th, 2009. Theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented proposals are welcome on both theme questions, as well as on past conference questions (listed below). **Deadline for proposals: July 1, 2009.**

2009 Theme Questions:

1. Has higher education lost its soul?
2. What ideas in education are worth keeping, and which ones ought to be thrown out?

Opportunity to Publish: Again this year the Academy for Educational Studies will offer an opportunity for presenters to be published. Those who present at the conference can submit their finished essays for a second review for inclusion in the Academy journal or an edited collection.

Proposals are invited on any aspect of the conference theme questions, including (but not limited to):

Has higher education lost its soul?

- Investigation of the purposes of higher education
- The status of the general education curriculum
- The liberal arts tradition and the demand for professional preparation
- Academic standards and practices in the college classroom
- The Great Books
- The “selling” of the soul of higher education to sponsored research or other economic interests
- The university and its relation to the public issues of the 21st century

What ideas in education are worth keeping, and which ones ought to be thrown out?

- Leading educational ideas (constructivism, multiple intelligences, “hands-on learning,” learning styles, cooperative learning groups, etc.): good ideas, bad ideas, or cliché?
- Curricular and instructional ideas that have been dramatically misunderstood, misapplied, misused, or abused
- Wonderful old ideas (almost forgotten) or new ideas that are worthy—and educational ideas not yet in the mainstream conversation
- Good and bad ideas about teaching and learning in particular subject matters

We are also accepting proposals that address past questions examined at the Critical Questions in Education Conference:

2008: Rethinking education: Is it time for radical change in the public schools?

2007: What is the role of religion in the 21st century public school?

2006: Why do kids hate school?

2005: Have schools really changed that much in the past 100 years?

Submitting a Proposal

The Conference Committee seeks participants who offer well-considered and reflective analysis or evaluation. Original research, research review, scholarly efforts, eloquent advocacy, or inspiring practice may provide the impetus for the presentation. Participants will need to provide their own computer/projection equipment for their presentations. Participants may submit the following kinds of proposals:

- **Individual paper:** Paper sessions (usually four presenters sharing a 90 minute session). Conference committee will group individual submissions based on commonality of theme or approach.
- **Symposium:** Symposia (typically 90 minutes) may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specified subject or in relation to a common theme. Those proposing a symposium are responsible for selecting and arranging for participants.
- **Panel discussion:** Presenters and discussants make introductory remarks before engaging in ad hoc give and take. Panels may be 60 or 90 minutes, at the discretion of the conference committee. Those proposing a panel discussion are responsible for selecting and arranging for participants.
- **Alternative format:** Participants may structure their presentations in less traditional ways, such as live performance (reader's theater, dance, music, etc.), roundtable, interview, demonstration, poster, small group discussion, video presentation, etc. Participants may suggest a timeframe needed for their presentation.

Proposal format

Cover Sheet—one page: The cover sheet will not be sent to reviewers.

1. Title of presentation
2. Format of presentation: Paper, Symposium, Panel, or Alternative
3. Identify the theme question being addressed
4. Information about person submitting the proposal
 - a. Name, with title and institution (indicate if graduate student)
 - b. Telephone number, e-mail address, mailing address, and FAX number
5. Additional presenters: Information about any and all co-presenters
 - a. Name, with title and institution (indicate if graduate student) and e-mail addresses
6. 30-word description for the printed program

Abstract of presentation (not to exceed two double-spaced pages)--sent to reviewers

1. Title of presentation
2. Description of presentation: The proposal abstract must not contain anything that reveals the identity of individual(s) submitting the proposal. **Proposals not directly related to one of the theme questions will not be accepted.** Proposals should clarify the objectives or purpose of the presentation, establish the importance of the topic, and indicate how the topic will be addressed. Proposals should indicate what kind of audience might most benefit from this presentation. Symposia, panel and alternative format proposals should discuss how the sessions will be structured.

Send Proposals electronically to:

AcademyEdStudies@missouristate.edu

- Subject line: Academy Conference proposal
- Send all proposals as a Word document attached to the email
- Deadline: July 1, 2009

Note: Only the person submitting the proposal will be notified of the acceptance of a multiple-presentation session, and he or she is responsible for notifying all other participants. The Conference Committee will review each proposal. The best proposals will articulate a clear objective and purpose as well as importance of the point of view to be expressed. Proposals need to show evidence of scholarly care, clear and effective argument, and/or a basis in research. Participants are welcome to submit multiple proposals.

Cost of the conference: \$130 (2008-09 members of the Academy)
 \$145 (non-members)
 \$ 70 (graduate students)

Conference fee includes 2009—10 membership to the Academy. Conference fees will increase after October 2, 2009. Conference fee waived for all undergraduate students. Group rates for K—12 faculty and administrators are available.

If you have any questions, please call: **Steven P. Jones, Academy Director**
Missouri State University
417-836-5982