

Center of Inquiry

WABASH COLLEGE

Defining Liberal Arts Education

16 August 2004

Two years ago the Center of Inquiry created a **definition** of liberal arts education to guide its work. Periodically we take time to review this in order to align it with what we have learned from our research and our rich conversations with the hundreds of visitors who participate in Center of Inquiry programs. On August 16-20, 2004, we will host a gathering of staff, researchers, and faculty for a discussion about liberal arts education. Our purpose is to examine what we have learned over the past year and to consider whether to update the Center's definition of liberal arts education.

Agenda

Monday, August 16th

- 2.00 - 2.30 Orientation Meeting, Trippet 325
- 2.30 - 4.00 Discussion of readings, Trippet 325
- 5.30 - 6.00 Reception, 2nd floor rotunda
- 6.00 - 7.30 Dinner, Trippet Hall Dining Room

Tuesday, August 17th

- 7.30- 8.30 Breakfast, Trippet Hall Dining Room
- 9.00 - 10.00 Foundations/Approach to liberal arts education, Library 3rd floor
- 10.00 - 10.15 Coffee Break and informal conversation, Trippet 3rd floor rotunda
- 10.15 - 11.00 Finish foundations discussion, Library 3rd floor
- 11.00 - 12.00 Begin definition description discussion, Library 3rd floor
- 12.00 - 1.00 Lunch, Trippet Dining Room
- 1.00 - 2.30 Definition discussion, Library 3rd floor
- 2.30 - 3.00 Break
- 3.30 - 5.00 What do we want to change?, Library 3rd floor
- 5.30 - 6.00 Reception, 3rd floor rotunda
- 6.00 - 7.30 Dinner, Trippet Hall Dining Room

Wednesday, August 18th

- 7.30 - 8.30 Breakfast, Trippet Hall Dining Room
- 9.00 - 10.00 What do we want to change?, Library 3rd floor
- 10.00 - 10.30 Coffee break and informal conversation, Trippet 3rd floor rotunda
- 10.30 - 12.00 Create outline and writing assignments, Library 3rd floor
- 12.00 - 1.30 Lunch, Trippet Hall Dining Room
- 1.30 - 3.00 Write, Trippet Hall
- 3.00 - 4.00 High Tea, 3rd floor rotunda
- 4.00 - 5.00 Write, Trippet Hall
- 6.30 - 8.00 Dinner, A Country A-Fair

Thursday, August 19th

- 8.00 - 9.00 Breakfast, Clifford Lounge
- 9.00 - 10.00 Conversation about the drafts, Trippet 325
- 10.00 - 10.30 Coffee break and informal conversation
- 10.30 - 12.00 Conversation about the drafts, Trippet 325
- 12.00 - 1.00 Lunch, Boxed lunches
- 1.00 - 2.00 Read/Edit/Write, Trippet Hall
- 2.00 - 2.30 Break (talk about progress), Trippet 325
- 2.30 - 4.00 Read/Edit/Write, Trippet Hall
- 4.00 - 6.00 Break

6.00 - 8.00 Dinner, Little Mexico

Friday, August 20th

8.00 - 9.00 Continental Breakfast, Clifford Lounge

9.00 - 12.00 Review of all the products, Library 3rd floor

12.00 - 1.00 Lunch, Boxed lunches

1.00 Departures

Summary

This gathering began by reading and discussing selected articles that focused our attention on liberal arts education; its purposes, its values, and its challenges. These discussions were important in the process of developing the rationale and language that might be used as we hone our definition of liberal arts education. Ultimately, participants invested the majority of their time and effort into working through an understanding of the valued student outcomes that are hallmarks of liberal arts education. The results of these deliberations will be incorporated into the Center of Inquiry's definition of liberal arts education in the near future.