

Browne Enrichment Fund

Faculty are invited to propose travel and high engagement activities that further Honors student understanding and application of critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills are the foundation of the Honors College curriculum and the co-curricular experience.

Selected proposals will receive funding to cover all or the bulk of expenses related the proposed travel or activity. Typical awards range from \$5,000-\$10,000

Sample projects include: student participation in a film festival that includes actor/director conversations; travel to a series of museums and historical points of interest between Ohio and the Southeast to discuss the enduring legacy of slavery; service learning trip that leads to public policy recommendations

Regardless of the activity or travel proposed, each student participant will be required to complete a post-event follow-up activity that demonstrates the impact of the project on their understanding of critical thinking. The form of this follow-up activity will be guided by the faculty member leading the project and can and should include both a written reflection and another form of expression (e.g., a discussion, a public presentation, other creative expression). Students are asked to consider the following:

- How has your participation in this project been facilitated by your critical thinking skills? Can you articulate how this experience was benefitted by the skills you acquired in HNRS 2010 and 2020?
- What is the added value to this project as a result of role as a critical thinker? Consider how your experience was enhanced, but perhaps also your awareness of limitations or obstacles in your ability to process the experience.
- How will your participation in this activity impact your future activities (e.g. how will your participation in this theatre festival shape your participation in future similar or related arts events?)
- Remember, *Asking the Right Questions*, used in all sections of HNRS 2010, should give you a framework for critical thinking and a vocabulary for communicating about it

Applications from faculty in all disciplines and fields are welcome. Student participants in the activity or travel must be members of the Honors College or the Honors Learning Community.

Faculty applicants who receive funding through this process are required to ensure students have completed the activity, the reflection about the activity, and a “thank you” to the donor.

For full consideration, please submit a proposal answering all of the questions below. Priority will be given to proposals received by September 1, 2021. Consideration for proposals received after this date will be made until all funds are distributed.

- Basic information related to the faculty member’s name and contact information.
- Basic information related to the name and contact information of any other faculty or staff contacts with whom you are working.

- Project narrative (2-3 pages including project title, introduction, description of what you are planning to do for the project or travel with the students, anticipated outcomes, and brief discussion of how the project's anticipated outcomes relate to the student's development of their critical thinking skills)
- Timeline of project
- Budget (itemized list of all anticipated costs associated with this experience. Please also make it clear which of those expenses you want the grant to cover). Only project expenses incurred during the current or future semesters that are not covered by any other institutional or grant funding can be considered.
- Please indicate whether you believe your students will present their findings at the Undergrad Research Symposium, the Diversity Research Symposium, the Latino/a/x Issues Conference, the Black Issues Conference, or if you plan to encourage another form of expression.

Applications for this grant will be evaluated based on the following rubric:

- Does the project have a clearly formulated goal?
- How does the project further the student's critical thinking skills?
- Is the project described adequately in terms of what the students will be doing? How?
- Are the anticipated outcomes of the project adequately described?
- Will the predicted outcomes advance the student's educational goals and critical thinking skills?
- Is the project feasible in the allotted time?
- Is the project well written?
- Does the budget adequately reflect the project's goals?
- Does the applicant agree to have students present to the BGSU or broader academic community?

Application deadlines are September 1, 2021. Decisions can be expected approximately two weeks later. Applications received after these dates will be considered, if funding is available. Only complete applications will be considered. Direct questions to Simon Morgan-Russell at smorgan@bgsu.edu.

Faculty who have proposals selected, will have access to budget administrator support for accessing grants funds. Faculty will also be invited to discuss any additional support needed for things like registering students, promoting the experience, and arranging transportation, meeting rooms, etc. When feasible, the Honors College will assist or provide consultation on current best practice or BGSU guidelines for travel.

BGSU Honors College

Grant Proposal Assessment – to be completed by each student

- Name
- BGSU Email address
- Provide a 500-750 word reflection describing whether and how the project furthered your critical thinking skills?
- Please attach (upload) slides used in the presentation of your findings or that depict your other form of expression
- What feedback would you give to other students considering similar travel or projects?
- Submit this reflective assessment using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to honors@bgsu.edu