

FOUNDATIONS OF CRITICAL THINKING ENRICHMENT DAY FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



My name is Jenn Bates.

I am the proud mother of a student with an identified learning disability. I am also a teacher. Currently I teach teachers, but I did teach in a local school board for almost 20 years. When I told my son, who is now 15 years old, that I wanted to bring students with learning disabilities to Trent... he said, "Well, just don't be cringe". That's my first goal. I want this day to be a great experience for all the students who get to come.

WHY THIS EVENT MATTERS

We live in a visually saturated world. Images, videos, emojis, and memes shape how young people communicate, learn, and understand their place in the world.

The day's enrichment purposefully engages with visual modalities to build student confidence, deepen critical thinking and celebrate unique ways of making meaning that are not only valid but deeply needed in today's world.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Grade 9-12 students with a learning disability (up to 35 spots) from our partner boards
- Teachers and teacher candidates who support exceptional learners
***Space for teachers is limited*

WHAT STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE

- Earn a micro-credential in the Foundations of Critical Thinking from Trent University
- Learn what a learning disability is— and what it isn't
- Build confidence in analyzing images and visual texts
- Explore how pictures can help strengthen critical thinking skills
- Explore the foundations of argumentation including informal logic
- Create visual arguments using memes
- Explore the Trent Campus

WHY THIS EVENT SUPPORTS YOUR CHILD

This day is built on educational research exploring learning disabilities, visual argumentation, and critical thinking. Your child will leave with:

- A stronger sense of identity as a learner
- New analytical tools they can use across subjects
- Inspiration to see university as an attainable pathway

QUESTIONS? INTERESTED IN REGISTERING?

Please contact Jenn Bates jbates@trentu.ca for more information.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for pick-up and drop-off. Snacks and lunch are provided.



MAY 26, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Otonabee College, Trent University

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)