Critical thinking is essential to all well-conceived instruction. It defines the ultimate goals of education. Educated persons share common intellectual standards and abilities. An educated person values and seeks to achieve clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, logicalness, and significance in thinking. Similarly, an educated person masters the elements that underlie all thought:

- An educated person routinely seeks to identify key purposes and goals and explicitly formulates questions, problems, and issues necessary to accomplishing those purposes and goals.
- An educated person gathers relevant information and makes reasonable inferences from that information (in tackling questions, problems and issues they are seeking to answer, solve, or resolve).
- An educated person notices key assumptions (that underlie thinking) and important implications and consequences (that follow from thinking).
- An educated person effectively analyzes key concepts and recognizes points of view and is able to shift either or both when necessary (in attempting to solve a problem or resolve an issue).

The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking have together hosted critical thinking academies and conferences for almost 35 years. During that time, we have advanced the principles and best practices of fairminded critical thought in education and in society. Our annual conference provides a unique opportunity for you to improve your understanding of critical thinking, as well as your ability to more substantively foster it in instruction and in all aspects of work and life.

Conference Theme: Cultivating Educated Citizens and Critical Societies Through Explicit Fairminded Critical Thinking

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Ralph Nader, Public Citizen

Honored by Time Magazine as "One of the 100 Most Influential Americans of the 20th Century" and as "One of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History" by The Atlantic, consumer advocate Ralph Nader has devoted his life to giving ordinary people the tools they need to defend themselves against corporate negligence and government indifference. With tireless, selfless dedication, he continues to expose and remedy the dangers that threaten a free and emancipated society.

Nader’s foray into public life began in 1965 when he took on the Goliath of the auto industry with his book Unsafe at Any Speed, a shocking exposé of the disregard carmakers held for the safety of their customers. The Senate hearing into Nader’s accusations, and the resulting life-saving motor vehicle safety laws, catapulted Nader into the public sphere.

Nader quickly built on the momentum of that success. Working with lawmakers, he was instrumental in creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Laws he helped draft and pass include the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Air and Water Pollution Control Laws, and the Freedom of Information Act. Working to empower the average American, Nader has formed numerous citizen groups, including the Center for Auto Safety, Public Citizen, the Pension Rights Center, the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, and the student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) that operate in over 20 states.

His message is simple and compelling: “To go through life as a non-citizen would be to feel there’s nothing you can do, that nobody’s listening, that you don’t matter. But to be a citizen is to enjoy the deep satisfaction of seeing the prevention of pain, misery, and injustice.”
Throughout our work we emphasize and argue for fairminded critical societies. The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking are enriched a core concept of critical thinking. Many offer practical teaching and learning strategies. All conference sessions will be designed to converge on basic critical thinking principles and to instruction in every subject area at every educational level.

ABOUT US…

The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking are sister institutions which focus on the cultivation of fairminded critical societies.

Throughout our work we emphasize and argue for the importance of fostering critical thinking in an ethical, or strong sense. We are committed to a clear and “substantive” concept of critical thinking (rather than one that is ill-defined); a concept that interfaces well with the disciplines, that integrates critical with creative thinking, that applies directly to the needs of everyday and professional life, that emphasizes the affective as well as the cognitive dimension of critical thinking, that highlights intellectual standards and traits. We advocate a concept of critical thinking that organizes instruction in every subject area at every educational level.

All conference sessions will be designed to converge on basic critical thinking principles and to enrich a core concept of critical thinking. Many offer practical teaching and learning strategies.

Focal Session Presenters at this Year’s Conference Include…

Dr. Richard Paul is a distinguished leader in the international critical thinking movement. He is Director of Research at the Center for Critical Thinking, the Chair of the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, and author of over 200 articles and seven books on critical thinking. His views on critical thinking have been canvassed in the New York Times, Education Week, The Chronicle of Higher Education, American Teacher, Educational Leadership, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, and Reader’s Digest.

Dr. Linda Elder is an educational psychologist and a prominent authority on critical thinking. She is President of the Foundation for Critical Thinking and Executive Director of the Center for Critical Thinking. Dr. Elder has taught psychology and critical thinking at the college level, and has given presentations to more than 20,000 educators at all levels. She has coauthored four books and 24 thinker’s guides on critical thinking.

Dr. Gerald Nosich is an authority on critical thinking. His work has been highlighted at more than 150 national and international workshops on critical thinking. He has worked with the U.S. Department of Education on a project for the National Assessment of Higher Order Thinking skills, has served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Critical Thinking, and has been featured as a Noted Scholar at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of two books including Learning to Think Things Through.

Dr. Rush Cosgrove is Assistant Director of Research, Historian, and Research Fellow at the Foundation for Critical Thinking. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, Darwin College. He holds Masters degrees from both the University of Oxford, New College and the University of Cambridge, Darwin College. He has conducted research on critical thinking and the Oxford Tutorial, and on the Paulian Framework for critical thinking as contextualized at a major U.S. research university. He conducts workshops in critical thinking for faculty and students, in English as well as in Spanish.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:
Choose from the following sessions when registering. Choose one for each section.

PRECONFERENCE (July 26-27, 2014)
- Cultivating Critical Thinking in Teaching and Learning: the Foundations of Critical Thinking… Dr. Richard Paul & Dr. Linda Elder
- Bringing Critical Thinking Concepts and Principles into the Heart of Socratic Dialogue… Dr. Gerald Nosich

CONFERENCE DAY ONE (July 28)
- Placing Critical Thinking at the Core of the College Curriculum… Dr. Richard Paul & Dr. Linda Elder
- Cultivating the Public Citizen Through a Robust Conception of Critical Thinking in Education… Dr. Rush Cosgrove
- Fostering Deep Understanding of Fundamental and Powerful Concepts in Instruction and in Daily Life… Dr. Gerald Nosich
- For Returning Registrants: Socrates, Epictetus and Critical Thinking - Linking Transformative Ideas Throughout History… Mr. Brian Barnes

CONFERENCE DAY TWO Morning (July 29)
- Bertrand Russell Distinguished Scholars Program… Russell Scholar: Ralph Nader
 (all conference registrants invited)

CONFERENCE DAY TWO Afternoon (July 29)
- Assessing Students’ Critical Thinking… Dr. Gerald Nosich
- Emotional Intelligence: A Conceptual Model… Dr. Richard Paul & Dr. Linda Elder
- Intellectual Virtues - Essential to the Public Citizen… Dr. Rush Cosgrove
- The Role of Close Reading and Substantive Writing in Education, in the Mind of the Public Citizen and Throughout Life… Dr. Paul Banks

CONFERENCE DAY THREE Morning (July 30)
- Concurrent sessions - choose at the conference

CONFERENCE DAY THREE Afternoon (July 30)
- What Current Research Reveals about the State of Critical Thinking in Education Today… Dr. Rush Cosgrove
- The Role of Essential Questions in Education and in Cultivating the Public Citizen… Dr. Gerald Nosich
- For Administrators: Key Ingredients of an Effective Professional Development Program in Critical Thinking… Dr. Linda Elder & Dr. Richard Paul
- What It Means to Be a Public Citizen: Exploring Ralph Nader’s Philosophy and World View… Mr. Brian Barnes

CONFERENCE DAY FOUR (July 31)
- Sociocentrism - A Primary Barrier to the Development of the Public Citizen… Dr. Linda Elder & Dr. Richard Paul
- Fostering Multilogical Thinking Across the Disciplines… Dr. Gerald Nosich
- Teaching Students to Give Feedback Using Intellectual Standards… Dr. Rush Cosgrove

To register or for more details – visit: www.criticalthinking.org and select Conferences and Events

The Foundation for Critical Thinking
800-833-3645 www.criticalthinking.org
P.O. Box 196, Tomales, CA 94971

Celebrating 34 years of working toward essential change in education and society through the cultivation of fairminded critical thinking.