



# NEWSLETTER

## Foundation for Critical Thinking

www.criticalthinking.org

August 2011

### Critical Thinking in the News...

An Article by Dr. Linda Elder entitled, *Becoming a Critical of Your Own Thinking*, was featured in the August edition of HR Matters Magazine,



“The single most important reason for deliberately evaluating your own thinking is that thinking, left to itself, just cannot be trusted. Everyone thinks, but everyone doesn’t think well. And no one thinks well all of the time...” [Click here to read the full article](#)

---

**Reminder**

***Special Thanks to everyone who attended the 31st International Conference on Critical Thinking and Education Reform in July!***

We had a wonderful time of learning, reflection and stimulating dialogue.

This year we had participants from 13 countries, 38 states within the US, and 5 Canadian Provinces.

Educators and Administrators attended from K-12 through Higher Education. Business and Government leaders from the US and abroad also participated.



## Online Course Starts Soon! Register Now!

### CT 700: Introduction to Critical Thinking for Instruction & Learning

**CT 700** introduces the theory and application of critical thinking to classroom instruction. It fosters understanding of how to teach critical thinking skills to students through any subject, discipline, or grade level (while working within given curricula). In this course, you will be introduced to the Elements of Reasoning, the Universal Intellectual Standards, and the Intellectual Traits through readings, discussions and practical application activities. Designing critical thinking lessons and remodeling already existing lessons to infuse critical thinking are skills that will be covered in depth. Learning and practicing specific strategies for concept attainment, Socratic discussions, and ethical reasoning are also a focus of this course. Emphasis in lesson planning will be on having students consciously use critical thinking concepts and strategies. You will teach lessons you develop in your own classes and receive credit for doing so.

[Click here for more information.](#)



**Plan now to attend our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, July 2012. Details will follow;**

**please check periodically for updates as information becomes available.**

<http://www.criticalthinking.org/conference/index.cfm>

---

## Fostering Critical Thinking in the Classroom...

### Encourage Students to Explicitly Think About Their Thinking

Give students specific suggestions for how to go about thinking about their thinking with a mind to improve it. For example, discuss with students the kind of thinking they need to do to master the content you are teaching. Point out the danger of relying on rote memorization and periodic cramming as a way to try to pass the course. Tell the students on the first class day that thinking through the content is the key agenda in the course and that this task will be the business of the class. On any typical day students will be expected to identify key concepts, link those concepts to related ideas, relate the content to concrete life examples and personal experiences, explore content problems, and ask questions about content issues to identify a few intellectual moves they will be expected to regularly make.

*Critical Thinking Quotes... Thoughts from the Past....*

All our individual and collective responsibilities and duties to our fellow beings should be constantly impressed upon all minds. More and more we should come to understand that we are our brothers' keepers, and that a state is great in proportion to the opportunities which it affords its citizens to become healthy, useful happy human beings.

Helen Keller, The New Leader, July 25, 1925