



# NEWSLETTER

Foundation for Critical Thinking  
[www.criticalthinking.org](http://www.criticalthinking.org)

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## Critical Thinking in the News...

### Professional Development: International Outreach

#### Istanbul, Turkey

At an upcoming educational conference hosted by the Oxford University Press for Turkish academics in Istanbul, Rush Cosgrove will present a series of introductory workshops on critical thinking.

The event marks the launch of a new English language learning textbook series for use within a year-long course designed for university freshmen. These workshops will be designed for decision makers from various schools of foreign languages. The focus will be on the delegates (1) leaving the venue with a clear understanding of what CT is and how EFL teachers can set their learning outcomes based on CT, and (2) developing their understanding of questioning skills which can help them achieve their overall academic objectives in the students' foundational year.

*Rush Cosgrove is a Fellow of the Foundation for Critical Thinking pursuing a PhD at the University of Cambridge.*



For information about our professional development programs, contact Nina Caputo at [ncaputo@criticalthinking.org](mailto:ncaputo@criticalthinking.org)

## Announcing...

### 31st International Conference on Critical Thinking

**July 25th - 28th, 2011**  
**Preconference July 23-24**  
**at the**  
**Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, CA**

The Center and Foundation for Critical Thinking have together hosted critical thinking academies and conferences for more than three decades. During that time, we have played a key role in defining, structuring, assessing, improving and advancing the principles and best practices of fair-minded critical thought in education and in society.

We invite you to join us for the 31st International Conference on Critical Thinking. 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 the classroom and in all aspects of your work and life.

The conference begins with 4 options for preconference sessions. These are for both new and returning registrants. The rest of the conference will consist in approximately 40 sessions offered over four days.

For a conference brochure [click here](#).

**For complete information on sessions, presenters, early registration rates and the workshop hotel, please [click here](#).**

## Fostering Critical Thinking in the Classroom...

### Instructional Strategy

#### Require an Intellectual Journal

There are many configurations an intellectual journal can take. The structure below is one possibility. The purpose of the journal is to construct a bridge between the class content and concepts and the students' daily experience and decision-making. The goal is to help students apply critical thinking to their own significant life situations.

1. **Situation:** Describe in detail a significant situation you were in or are in presently. This would be a situation that has caused you to have a strong emotional reaction (mostly negative). What happened?

2. **Response:** Describe your response to the situation. What precisely did you do in the situation?

3. **Analysis:** Analyze your reaction to the situation. In other words, state what was really going on in your thinking and your behavior making every attempt to avoid distortion especially in favor of your thinking/behavior. Why did you react the way you did? Was your behavior reasonable in the circumstances?

4. **Implications:** What can you learn from your analysis? Is there something you should do differently in the future to avoid a similar reaction in a similar situation? In short, what did you learn from this analysis that will help you in the future?

### Quotable Critical Thinking Quotes...

**What is critical thinking?** For myself, I found that I was fitted for nothing so well as for the study of Truth; as having a mind nimble and versatile enough to catch the resemblances of things ... and at the same time steady enough to fix and distinguish their subtler differences; as being gifted by nature with desire to seek, patience to doubt, fondness to meditate, slowness to assert, readiness to consider, carefulness to dispose and set in order; and as being a man that neither affects what is new nor admires what is old, and that hates every kind of imposture.

Frances Bacon, *On the Interpretation of Nature*, 1603-4