

INQUIRY:

CRITICAL THINKING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

Volume 3, Number 2

March, 1989

The Institute for Critical Thinking presents:

Lenore Langsdorf, Professor of Philosophy
University of Texas at Arlington

**Verbal and Visual Literacy:
Reasoning in the Language of Television**

Monday, March 13, 1989, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Kops Lounge, Russ Hall

Dr. Langsdorf will also participate in a panel discussion on the topic:

**Closing the Literacy Gap:
Bookish Teachers and Televisual Students**

Tuesday, March 14, 1989, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Student Center, Room 417

Much of what we currently practice and teach is rooted in a literate culture familiar and comfortable to teachers. This culture was in its infancy when Aristotle formulated the logical rules and practices intrinsic to verbal language. Evidence suggests that the culture of verbal literacy is in decline, and that one of visual literacy is replacing it. Our students are adept at understanding the language of television. Written English, then, is a third language to many of them, who learn the language of television even before they are at all adept at oral English.

The languages of printed and videotexts will be compared, relative to some traditional logical structures we use in everyday reasoning. Critical thinking as an educational ideal should develop students' (and our) ability to reason across the media. In order to do so, we must learn how claims are developed and assessed in different media.

Members of the MSC community and visitors are most welcome to attend both sessions.

NEWSLETTER of the INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL THINKING

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