



NZ Association for Philosophy Teachers

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Philosophical Reflection and GATE



Thought Thinking About Itself

What is Philosophy?

Philein, meaning 'to love'
Sophia, meaning 'wisdom'.

Philosophy is dedicated to the love, or pursuit, of *wisdom*.

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What is wisdom? And who might have it?

Wisdom requires knowledge of:

what is and
what ought to be.

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There is no theory of everything

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So what?

fundamental beliefs and presuppositions
underling various belief systems.

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UNESCO

Philosophy [education] helps to imbue the public mind with a certain number of philosophical and moral notions to be regarded as a minimum equipment [for citizenship], and which are calculated to reinforce respect for human personality.

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Philosophy education is linked with our *civic* and *moral* responsibilities.

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Philosophy facing world problems

- Population growth and poverty
- Wealth generation
- Consumption of resources
- Carbon gas emissions
- Extinction of species and Ecological breakdown
- Techno-scientific developments

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New and updated ethical paradigms

- Opportunities
- Liabilities

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How can philosophy education help?

1. Conceptual tools: question and analyse existing modes of:
 - Social
 - Ethical
 - Political
 - Scientific
2. Meaning. Imagine and create new possibilities
3. Intellectual freedom of individuals

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Let's do some Philosophy!

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Peter Singer: the Shallow Pond

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Moral obligations to other animals

Is it okay to eat meat?

Or better, Why is it ok to kill and eat animals like cows and chickens, but not ok to eat animals like humans?

What's the difference?

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NZAPT Conference

September 27-28, 2012 (Term 3 break)
Rangī Ruru Girls School, Christchurch

- Review recently developed assessment material for Philosophy
- workshops for teacher and student materials for Level 1-3 Philosophy courses

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Don't ask what you can do with Philosophy,
But, what Philosophy can do with you.

The unexamined life is not worth living
- Socrates, *Apology*, 38a

