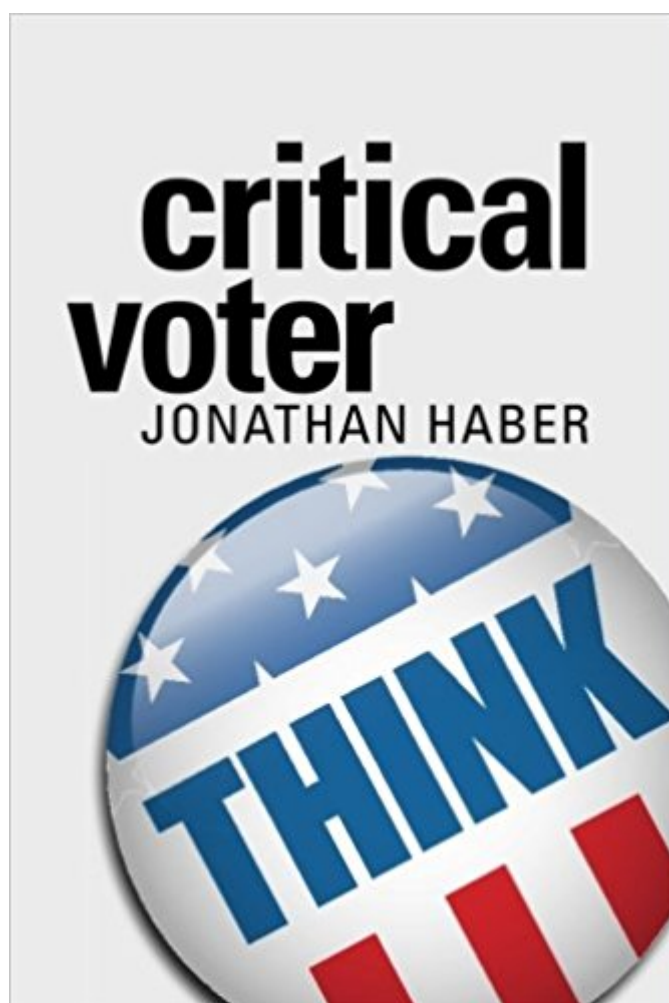


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# Critical Voter: Using The Next Election To Make Yourself (and Your Kids) Smarter



## Synopsis

Why waste the next election feeling suckered, ignored or manipulated when you can follow the simple lessons in this book to become a member of the most fearsome of all demographics: the free and truly independent critical thinker. *Critical Voter*, the new book by writer and educational researcher Jonathan Haber, provides easy-to-follow explanations, illustrated with examples from presidential campaign politics, to show you how to:

- \* Decode arguments to understand what people (including presidential candidates) are really trying to convince you to believe
- \* Understand when persuasive language is being used to push you one way or another, as well as how to master the persuaders' techniques to get people to do what you want
- \* Identify and overcome biases (especially the ones that are holding you back)
- \* See past what the media is telling you
- \* Make the Internet your servant for discovering the truth

From Cicero to Mr. Spock, from Aristotle's logic to the latest work of cognitive science, *Critical Voter* applies 2500 years of practical advice to today's news headlines to help you learn to think clearly, communicate convincingly, and live a more successful and happier life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jonathan Haber has written the literary equivalent of a powerful vaccine. In this case, the disease is an electorate manipulated by media, politicians and zillionaires. He walks you through the logical fallacies and rhetorical tricks just in time for the next election. But *Critical Voter* shouldn't be used just during campaigns. The book is a clear-headed, readable guide to argumentation. College professors should consider using it in introductory logic and rhetoric courses. Full disclosure: I know Jonathan Haber, and my book, *Thank You for Arguing*, is among the books *Critical Voter*

recommends. Even fuller disclosure: I'm hugely impressed. Here's an educated man who earned an additional equivalent of a bachelor's degree in philosophy using MOOCS, Massive Open Online Courses, in one year. His study, and boundless energy, come shining through in his latest book.

I got a paperback copy of this book and the timing couldn't be better. In this crazy political season -- where rhetoric and obfuscation often trump logic and facts -- it was lots of fun to read all the ways one can use critical thinking to cut through the smoke screen. One thing that I really appreciated is that Haber is truly non-partisan in his presentation here. He confesses his political background, but then goes on to present everything in an even handed way. I couldn't decide whether it was more impressive to use critical thinking to learn about politics or use politics to learn critical thinking. In either case, I wish every voter could get his or her hands on this.

This is a wonderful book. I bought it in an effort to refine my thinking about the pros and cons of our current presidential candidates. I was looking for something that would help me to be more objective in evaluating the candidates' positions on the issues. The biggest thing that I learned from this book is the principle of charity - the idea of focusing on strengths rather than weaknesses in an argument. What is the person really trying to say when you strip away all the irrelevant noise? Is the argument valid and sound? If not, where does it fall apart? This is an awesome book, not just for the election, but for life in general. I highly recommend it,

Mr. Haber tackles the subject of argumentation primarily through the analysis of US presidential elections. His writing gives us the tools to discern truth in what we hear from either side of an election. The same tools apply outside of the political sphere as well. Mr. Haber's writing style is engaging, balancing sometimes challenging subject matter with humor. This book is a good fit for anyone seeking to cut through the rhetoric we hear during an election. It is also a good teaching tool for educators.

This is a terrific book--engaging and easy to read. I love the idea of using a general election as an opportunity to hone critical thinking skills, and I'm determined to try Haber's experiment over the remaining months of the US presidential election. Critical Voter offers an overview of the techniques politicians (on both sides of the aisle) use to manipulate the electorate as well as a tool kit to help voters think independently and critically.

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