

# Transforming Education: Critical Thinking in the Information Age

## Daniel Levitin, Ph.D.

Dean of Social Sciences at the Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute and faculty member, Center for Executive Education, UC Berkeley  
Author, *This is Your Brain on Music*, *The Organized Mind*, and the brand-new *A Field Guide to Lies*

**Thursday, September 8, 2016, 7:00 PM**

**New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**

Free and open to the public. Suitable for ages 12+. Info: [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DANIEL LEVITIN, Ph.D.**

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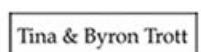
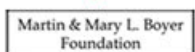
**Thursday, September 8, 2016, Transforming Education: Critical Thinking in the Information Age, 7:00 PM, New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, 60093.** We are bombarded with more information each day than our brains can process. It's raining bad data, half-truths, and even outright lies, and it's becoming harder to separate the wheat from the digital chaff. In his brand-new book *A Field Guide to Lies: Critical Thinking in the Information Age*, *New York Times* bestselling author **Daniel J. Levitin, Ph.D.**, a cognitive psychologist, neuroscientist, musician, and record producer, shows how to recognize misleading announcements, statistics, graphs, and written reports, revealing the ways information is distorted, both intentionally or not.

How do we distinguish misinformation, pseudo-facts, distortions, and outright lies from reliable information? Dr. Levitin groups his field guide into two categories, statistical information and faulty arguments, ultimately showing how science is the bedrock of critical thinking. Infoliteracy means understanding that there are hierarchies of source quality and bias that variously distort our information feeds via every media channel, including social media. We may expect newspapers, bloggers, the government, and Wikipedia to be factually and logically correct, but they so often aren't. In particular, students of all ages need to think critically about the words and numbers they encounter if they want to be successful in school, at play, and at work. This means checking the plausibility and reasoning of the information we encounter rather than passively accepting information, repeating it, and making ill-informed decisions.

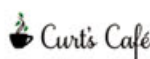
Dr. Levitin is the author of three consecutive *New York Times* bestselling books: *This Is Your Brain on Music*, *The World in Six Songs* and *The Organized Mind*. His work has been translated into 20 languages. He is **Dean of Social Sciences** at the **Minerva Schools** at the **Keck Graduate Institute**, and faculty member at the **Center for Executive Education** at **UC Berkeley**. He is a frequent commentator on NPR and CBC.

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