

# Let us Teach to Empower a Generation to Seek Authenticity!

## Speech summary

In his speech “Let us Teach to Empower a Generation to Seek Authenticity!” Philippe Longchamps suggests that critical thinking might be the most important skill for us to teach for the 21st Century.

The infodemic that has been afflicting the world in recent years highlights the fact that it is not sufficient to teach for herd immunity against gullibility. Teachers urgently need to get the resources necessary to administer healthy doses of skepticism to their students to combat the virus of disinformation that is spreading all around the globe.

A recent study by PISA showed that only 47% of fifteen-year-olds in the OECD countries are able to tell the difference between facts and opinions. This is why critical thinking urgently needs to become the cornerstone of everything being taught in school. While helping students to identify and trust reliable sources, teachers need to provide plenty of examples of logical fallacies, cognitive biases and make everyone aware of the Dunning-Kruger Effect. This will hopefully empower students by giving them a habit of fact-checking and, debunking unfounded claims will become a self-acquired life-long skill.

In order to achieve this audacious goal Philippe invites everyone to join him in a global effort to eradicate online disinformation at the source by initiating the movement #keepitreal. The idea is that by gathering potentially harmful disinformation under this hashtag, teachers and students will be able to create a lock-down on viral disinformation and prevent it from spreading. This evolving, democratic and organic movement could potentially equip the next generations with better critical thinking skills.

However, this will not happen by itself, teachers will need appropriate training to be able to help their students take the lead in building this movement online. #keepitreal is a call for action and an honest attempt to bring a new hope for a healthier information ecosystem.

**Philippe Longchamps**, *Teacher of the Year in Sweden 2020 and Finalist for the Global Teacher Prize 2021* is a Canadian educator from Québec who moved to Sweden in 2002. He is the co-author of two upcoming publications, *Creativity Thinktank* and *Transformative Education*. He works tirelessly to stress the importance of empowering teachers and the youth of the world with adequate fact-checking and critical thinking skills.