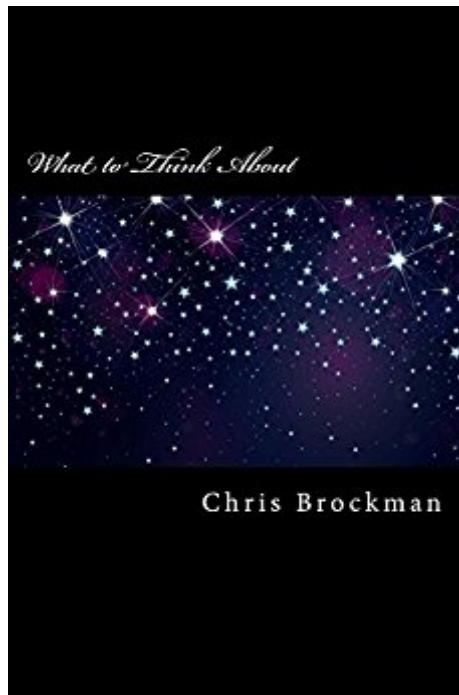




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What To Think About: Philosophy For A Thoughtful Younger Generation



Synopsis

What to Think About: Philosophy for a Thoughtful Younger Generation, by Chris Brockman is up on . Brockman uses his own definition of "philosophy" as a systematic study of who I am, what's out there, and what should I do about it, to arrive at suggestions for things to think about. Each chapter ends with scenarios and questions challenging the reader to think. This book is written from a humanist perspective, and may offend some religious sensibilities. It is recommended for young adults. Chris Brockman is the author of the classic of religious skepticism for children What about gods?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let's see it would be somewhere in the late 1970s and early 1980s, during my life in the SE Michigan general liberty movement—which at that time still had a decidedly Libertarian Party component, at least for me—Chris and his wife Julie were welcome, sane voices in that not always august milieu. In 1978, Chris wrote a short book What about gods?, which became the

modern standard for helping children think intelligently about the phantasmagoric world of deities and religion. [I would like gods? to be required reading for first graders in the government schools] but of course someone on the school board would jump up to shoot down such an irreverent book for junior and his friends. "What about moral values!?" they'd exclaim.] Exactly. What to Think About is a fertile continuation of Chris's earlier book, moving into the more general realm of philosophy and targeting, it seems, today's junior-high and high-school aged kids. Likewise, school districts around the country would do well to insert this new book into the curriculum "if not required then highly recommended. Why? Because the students themselves will find this little nugget a godsend as they struggle with moral values, what to make of themselves, and the enormity of what the official world is slamming down upon them these days" per John Lennon: "The world is run by insane men for insane purposes. Never more true than at the present. Moreover, by many accounts the psychopath elites seem to be winning. [A prospect that Mr. Brockman wisely excludes from his Big Picture.] I like how the author refreshes my own memory of the (Ayn) Randian economy of expressing what philosophy is "metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, aesthetics" and answering the question "Who needs it?". And he does so in a manner that will flow for most teens. Excerpted from my full book review (at TheCoffeeCoaster.com/?p=6348).

It is important that people of all ages be clear thinkers who consider life and death and how we all fit into the scheme of existence. Chris Brockman in, *What to Think About, Philosophy for a Thoughtful Younger Generation*, explains philosophy as a framework for thinking through its five branches, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, aesthetics and politics. Metaphysics gets us thinking about what life is, God, creation and other thoughts of existence. Epistemology asks how we can know such things. Ethics has us considering our own conduct and what is right and wrong for humans everywhere. Aesthetics helps us evaluate beauty and politics asks how we live together peaceably in society with all out disparate beliefs. Brockman encourages us to think with clarity and guided purpose about these subjects. The book is made of 6 chapters each of which concludes with many excellent questions that guide the reader to ponder and come to their own conclusion about who they are and what they should think about. Many students will come to different philosophical conclusions than Brockman but that is the prerogative of a thinking mind. For young people embarking on the journey of their lives, *What to Think About* is like a guidebook to thinking that can help the student of existence to understand his or her own being and as such is a valuable learning

tool.

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