



Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide

Tracy Bowell, Gary Kemp

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We are frequently confronted with *arguments*. Arguments are attempts to persuade us – to influence our beliefs and actions – by giving us reasons to believe this or that. *Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide* will equip students with the concepts and techniques used in the identification, analysis and assessment of arguments. Through precise and accessible discussion, this book provides the tools to become a successful critical thinker, one who can act and believe in accordance with good reasons, and who can articulate and make explicit those reasons.

Key topics discussed include:

- core concepts in argumentation
- how language can serve to obscure or conceal the real content of arguments; how to distinguish argumentation from rhetoric
- how to avoid common confusions surrounding words such as ‘truth’, ‘knowledge’ and ‘opinion’
- how to identify and evaluate the most common types of argument
- how to distinguish good reasoning from bad in terms of deductive validity and induction.

This fourth edition has been revised and updated throughout, with a new introduction for each chapter and up-to-date topical examples. Particular revisions include: practical reasoning; understanding quantitative data, statistics, and the rhetoric used about them; scientific reasoning; the connection to formal logic and the logic of probability; conditionals; ambiguity; vagueness; slippery slope arguments; and arguments by analogy.

The dynamic Routledge *Critical Thinking* companion website provides thoroughly updated resources for both instructors and students including new examples and case studies, flashcards, sample questions, practice questions and answers, student activities and a testbank of questions for use in the classroom.

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