

CRITICAL THINKING

A STUDENT'S INTRODUCTION

FIFTH EDITION

Gregory Bassham

William Irwin

Henry Nardone

James M. Wallace

King's College



CONTENTS

A Word to Students ix

Preface xi

CHAPTER 1 Introduction to Critical Thinking 1

What Is Critical Thinking? 1

Critical Thinking Standards 2

Clarity 2

Precision 2

Accuracy 3

Relevance 3

Consistency 4

Logical Correctness 5

Completeness 6

Fairness 6

The Benefits of Critical Thinking 7

Critical Thinking in the Classroom 7

Critical Thinking in the Workplace 9

Critical Thinking in Life 9

Barriers to Critical Thinking 10

Egocentrism 11

Sociocentrism 13

Unwarranted Assumptions and Stereotypes 16

Relativistic Thinking 19

Wishful Thinking 24

Characteristics of a Critical Thinker 25

CHAPTER 2 Recognizing Arguments 29

- What Is an Argument? 29
- Identifying Premises and Conclusions 33
- What Is Not an Argument? 40
 - Reports* 40
 - Unsupported Assertions* 41
 - Conditional Statements* 41
 - Illustrations* 43
 - Explanations* 43

CHAPTER 3 Basic Logical Concepts 53

- Deduction and Induction 53
- How Can We Tell Whether an Argument Is Deductive or Inductive? 56
 - The Indicator Word Test* 57
 - The Strict Necessity Test* 58
 - The Common Pattern Test* 58
 - The Principle of Charity Test* 59
 - Exceptions to the Strict Necessity Test* 61
- Common Patterns of Deductive Reasoning 62
 - Hypothetical Syllogism* 62
 - Categorical Syllogism* 65
 - Argument by Elimination* 66
 - Argument Based on Mathematics* 66
 - Argument from Definition* 67
- Common Patterns of Inductive Reasoning 67
 - Inductive Generalization* 68
 - Predictive Argument* 68
 - Argument from Authority* 69
 - Causal Argument* 69
 - Statistical Argument* 70
 - Argument from Analogy* 70
- Deductive Validity 73
- Inductive Strength 77

CHAPTER 4 Language 86

- Finding the Right Words: The Need for Precision 86
 - Vagueness* 87
 - Overgenerality* 88
 - Ambiguity* 89

The Importance of Precise Definitions	93
<i>Types of Definitions</i>	94
<i>Strategies for Defining</i>	96
<i>Rules for Constructing Good Lexical Definitions</i>	100
Emotive Language: Slanting the Truth	106
<i>The Emotive Power of Words</i>	108
Euphemisms and Political Correctness	114

CHAPTER 5 Logical Fallacies—I 119

The Concept of Relevance	119
Fallacies of Relevance	121
<i>Personal Attack (Ad Hominem)</i>	122
<i>Attacking the Motive</i>	123
<i>Look Who's Talking (Tu Quoque)</i>	124
<i>Two Wrongs Make a Right</i>	125
<i>Scare Tactics</i>	127
<i>Appeal to Pity</i>	128
<i>Bandwagon Argument</i>	128
<i>Straw Man</i>	129
<i>Red Herring</i>	130
<i>Equivocation</i>	131
<i>Begging the Question</i>	132

CHAPTER 6 Logical Fallacies—II 140

Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence	140
<i>Inappropriate Appeal to Authority</i>	140
<i>Appeal to Ignorance</i>	144
<i>False Alternatives</i>	145
<i>Loaded Question</i>	146
<i>Questionable Cause</i>	147
<i>Hasty Generalization</i>	149
<i>Slippery Slope</i>	150
<i>Weak Analogy</i>	151
<i>Inconsistency</i>	154

CHAPTER 7 Analyzing Arguments 164

Diagramming Short Arguments	164
<i>Tips on Diagramming Arguments</i>	169
Summarizing Longer Arguments	175
<i>Paraphrasing</i>	176

<i>Finding Missing Premises and Conclusions</i>	180
<i>Summarizing Extended Arguments</i>	182
<i>Common Mistakes to Avoid in Standardizing Arguments</i>	187

CHAPTER 8 Evaluating Arguments and Truth Claims 195

When Is an Argument a Good One?	195
<i>What “Good Argument” Does Not Mean</i>	195
<i>What “Good Argument” Does Mean</i>	196
When Is It Reasonable to Accept a Premise?	198
Refuting Arguments	203
Appendix: Sample Critical Essay	219

CHAPTER 9 A Little Categorical Logic 225

Categorical Statements	225
Translating into Standard Categorical Form	230
Categorical Syllogisms	237

CHAPTER 10 A Little Propositional Logic 252

Conjunction	253
Conjunction and Validity	256
Negation	261
Deeper Analysis of Negation and Conjunction	265
Disjunction	271
Conditional Statements	276

CHAPTER 11 Inductive Reasoning 285

Introduction to Induction	285
Inductive Generalizations	286
<i>Evaluating Inductive Generalizations</i>	288
<i>Opinion Polls and Inductive Generalizations</i>	292
Statistical Arguments	296
<i>Reference Class</i>	299
Induction and Analogy	302
<i>What Is an Analogy?</i>	302
<i>How Can We Argue by Analogy?</i>	303

<i>Evaluating Arguments from Analogy</i>	304
<i>Arguing by Analogy</i>	310
Induction and Causal Arguments	312
<i>Correlation and Cause</i>	316
A Few Words about Probability	318
<i>A Closer Look at a Priori Probability</i>	320

CHAPTER 12 Finding, Evaluating, and Using Sources 327

Finding Sources	330
<i>Refining Your Search: Questions and Keywords</i>	331
<i>Directional Information</i>	333
<i>Informational Sources</i>	335
Evaluating Sources	338
<i>Content: Facts and Everything Else</i>	338
<i>The Author and the Publisher</i>	343
<i>The Audience</i>	348
<i>Evaluating Internet Sources</i>	349
Taking Notes	356
<i>Bibliographical Information</i>	356
<i>Content Notes: Quotes, Summaries, and Paraphrases</i>	357
Using Sources	367
<i>Acknowledging Sources</i>	367
<i>Incorporating Sources</i>	370

CHAPTER 13 Writing Argumentative Essays 376

Writing a Successful Argument	378
Before You Write	379
<i>Know Yourself</i>	379
<i>Know Your Audience</i>	380
<i>Choose and Narrow Your Topic</i>	384
<i>Write a Sentence That Expresses Your Claim</i>	386
<i>Gather Ideas: Brainstorm and Research</i>	387
<i>Organize Your Ideas</i>	393
Writing the First Draft	399
<i>Provide an Interesting Opening</i>	400
<i>Include a Thesis Statement</i>	401
<i>Develop Your Body Paragraphs</i>	402
<i>Provide a Satisfying Conclusion</i>	403

After the First Draft	405
<i>Read What You Have Written and Revise</i>	405
<i>Consider What You Have Not Written and Revise</i>	405
<i>Show Your Work</i>	406
<i>Edit Your Work</i>	406
<i>Hand It In</i>	406
<i>Sample Argumentative Essay</i>	407

CHAPTER 14 Thinking Critically about the Media 418

The Mass Media	418
Social Media	419
The News Media	421
<i>The Importance of Context</i>	421
Getting Us to Pay Attention: What Really Drives the Media	425
Keeping Our Interest: The News as Entertainment	427
<i>How the Media Entertain Us</i>	428
<i>Slanting the News</i>	436
Media Literacy	440
Advertising	442
<i>What Ads Do</i>	443
<i>Defenses of Advertising</i>	444
<i>Criticisms of Advertising</i>	445
<i>Common Advertising Ploys</i>	446

CHAPTER 15 Science and Pseudoscience 455

The Basic Pattern of Scientific Reasoning	455
The Limitations of Science	462
How to Distinguish Science from Pseudoscience	464
A Case Study in Pseudoscientific Thinking: Astrology	475

Appendix A: Essays for Critical Analysis A-1

Appendix B: The Six Habits of Effective Problem-Solvers A-8

Notes N-1

Answers to Selected Exercises ANS-1

Credits C-1

Index I-1