



The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims

Lewis Vaughn

Download now

Read Online 

The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims

Lewis Vaughn

The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims Lewis Vaughn

The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning About Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims explores the essentials of critical reasoning, argumentation, logic, and argumentative essay writing while also incorporating important topics that most other texts leave out, such as "inference to the best explanation," scientific reasoning, evidence and authority, visual reasoning, and obstacles to critical thinking.

The text integrates many pedagogical features, including hundreds of diverse exercises, examples, and illustrations; text boxes that apply critical thinking to student experience; step-by-step guidelines for evaluating claims, arguments, and explanations; a glossary of important terms; and many reminders, summaries, and review notes. SUPPORT PACKAGE:

The text is supplemented by an Instructor's Manual and Test Bank in print and an Instructor's Manual with Computerized Test Bank on CD. The Computerized Test Bank is a completely customizable bank of questions to aid in the creation of exams and quizzes. Both versions of the Instructor's Manual feature notes on using the text effectively, sample syllabi, links to websites of interest, lectures in PowerPoint format, chapter summaries, and answers to the exercises in the text.

A Companion Website at www.oup.com/us/criticalthinking includes all of the information found in the Instructor's Manual. It also offers a student study guide featuring a summary of the main points of each chapter, study questions, short review quizzes, flashcards, web links, and additional chapter exercises. Course Cartridges for a variety of e-learning environments allow instructors to create their own course websites with the interactive material from the instructor and student companion websites.

The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims Details

Date : Published August 31st 2012 by Oxford University Press, USA (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780199856671

Author : Lewis Vaughn

Format : Paperback 604 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Textbooks, Nonfiction

 [Download The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning abo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning a ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims Lewis Vaughn

From Reader Review The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims for online ebook

Debbie says

should be mandatory reading for everyone...

Science For The People says

Featured on Science for the People show #221 on July 12, 2013, during an interview with author Chris MacDonald. <http://www.scienceforthepeople.ca/epi...>

William Cornwell says

I've taught critical reasoning using this fourth edition of Vaughn's book as well as the similar third edition many times, and the more I use this book, the more I'm convinced that it's time for me to find a new textbook for my course. I'm may switch to Moore and Parker's Critical Reasoning, 10th edition for future classes.

Vaughn's book is poorly organized. For instance, topics in chapter 2 pop up in chapters 4 & 5 but typically with no cross-referencing within the text. For instance, on pages 39 & 41 of chapter 2 Vaughn briefly explains the concept of selective attention, which is using evidence and reasoning that supports preconceived conclusions and discounting or ignoring evidence and reasoning that undermines those preconceived conclusions. This topic gets discussed in much more detail in chapter 4 on pages 140-144, but here Vaughn never mentions selective attention by name and instead introduces new terminology like "confirmation bias," which he defines in almost exactly the same way as "selective attention." This sort of problem occurs at various points in the book.

Another defect with the book is that the exercise sets often are poorly thought out. The progression from one problem set to the next often doesn't build reasoning skills sequentially, and a problem set's exercises don't seem to be ordered so that the problems get progressively more difficult. Another flaw is that a problem set may test for skills that don't appear in the chapter (see exercise 3.8) but fail to test skills that do appear in the chapter (see exercise 9.7, which is the only problem set focusing on the five criteria of adequacy for assessing theories but examines students in only two of those five criteria, or note how there are no exercises in chapter four that involve analyzing advertising). Finally, the exercise sets have quite a few mistakes in them. For instance, problem #7 in exercise 3.4 gives "The Taliban regime fell because it persecuted women" as an argument when it clearly is an explanation. Exercise 9.10, passage one, premises that Venus rotates slowly and then concludes that Venus must rotate fairly often--good luck explaining that one to students. The more I teach from this book, the more problems I realize are defective in a variety of ways and should not be assigned. The Instructor's Manual solutions also have many mistakes.

The strengths of the book are that it offers a comprehensive menu of topics, OUP prices it lower than comparable textbooks, it is visually more attractive than many other critical reasoning or logic books and discusses "weird" theories about subjects like paranormal activity that might interest some students. Nonetheless, the book's drawbacks are too serious and numerous for me to recommend this book.

Rachel says

I liked it. ??????
