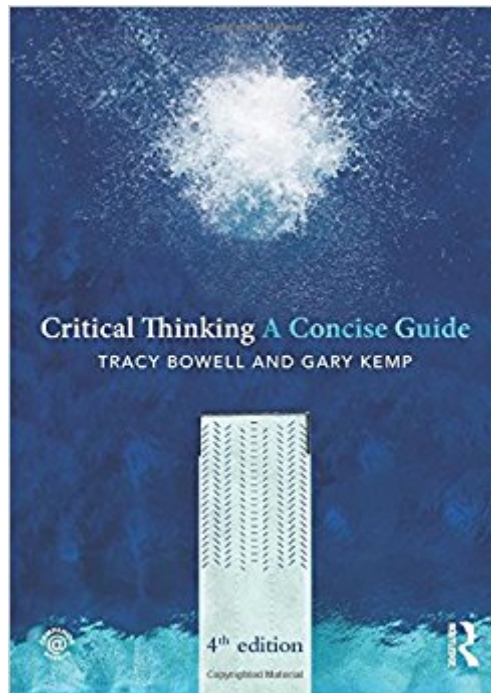


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# Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'The way in which this text combines clear and detailed explanations of technical concepts with a comprehensive set of contemporary and relevant examples is excellent. Whilst the focus is largely on developing the practical skills of argument reconstruction and analysis, the authors never lose sight of the larger philosophical picture, and this makes the book a joy both to teach with, and to learn from.' - Joel Walmsley, University College Cork, Ireland

Â 'Bowell & Kemp's Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide is, in my view, the best textbook by some distance for undergraduate students approaching the subject for the first time. It is clearly written and introduces the fundamental concepts of the subject in an accessible and systematic way which equips students with the essential skills needed for the construction and analysis of arguments. The exercises are carefully selected to really embed the concepts in examples that will be relevant and interesting to students, and provide an excellent teaching resource. The book will be of great value to students of philosophy, providing them with an analytical framework within which they can properly understand and assess the texts they study. Furthermore, students of any academic discipline will benefit greatly from the book as a guide to organising their thoughts into rigorous arguments. The fourth edition contains welcome new material on probabilistic reasoning, as well as continued improvements throughout the book. It remains the clear first-choice textbook for my course.' - Graham Stevens, University of Manchester, UK

Praise for previous editions: 'This concise guide offers relevant, rigorous and approachable methodsâ [The authors focus on analysing and assessing arguments in a thoughtfully structured series of chapters, with clear definitions, a glossary, plenty of examples and some useful exercises.' - Will Ord, Times Educational Supplement

'In my view this book is the most useful textbook on the market for its stated audience. It provides exceptionally clear explanations, with sufficient technical detail, but without over-complication. It is my first-choice text for teaching critical thinking to first-year undergraduate students.' - Dawn Phillips, University of Southampton, UK

'â [written with actual undergraduates, and the standard mistakes and confusions that they tend to be subject to, clearly borne in mindâ ]' - Helen Beebee, University of Manchester, UK

'This is the best single text I have seen for addressing the level, presumptions, and interests of the non-specialist.' - Charles Ess, Drury University, USA

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I don't know why this book has got such poor reviews. It's a very thorough explanation of formal

arguments and the process of analyzing arguments to determine if they are sound or not, and of course covering the types of logical fallacies. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to study the subject. However, it's pretty dry and not suitable for anyone who wants a brief introduction. I used the book for self-study. I took my time and wrote up study notes as I went, and I got a lot out of the book.

good

Pretty much all I needed at the time. Very accessible, useful diagnostic frameworks. Easy read. Thanks team.

I'm glad I did the book rental for this text because I want nothing to do with it now that my course is over. It is so difficult to focus while reading this book. I don't feel like the author is writing for 101 students. It was so hard to grasp the concepts being explained. There were even times that my professor said to disregard certain parts of the text because the author did such a bad job of explaining. Also, FYI the author is British so some of the spellings will be strange.

Ok

I learned a lot and it. Helped a ton with my class, but god this book is boring. Forcing myself to read it was awful. Oh well, it is a textbook and I got a B in the class so it did its job!

I tried to stay focused on what he was attempting to get across but his constant rhetoric about Obama and other liberal agenda was VERY distracting. I don't share his political beliefs and feel that if the book isn't on politics, he needs to keep the references out. If I didn't have to read this for a class I would throw it out!

Too many university text books have been authored by a person who has not been able to publish real scholarship, such as a book length treatment of a philosophical question. I read through this book and tried to imagine how the authors might be, because the book is very, very dull and exceptionally long winded. Then out of curiosity I googled the authors. One of them made me stop questioning the invention of the Niqab. I found very little scholarship attributed to that person, which made me suspect that I had not read the words of a real authority---even if it's just about basic,

simple logic. The information contained in this book could have been reduced to about three pages. The rest is just academic silicone.

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