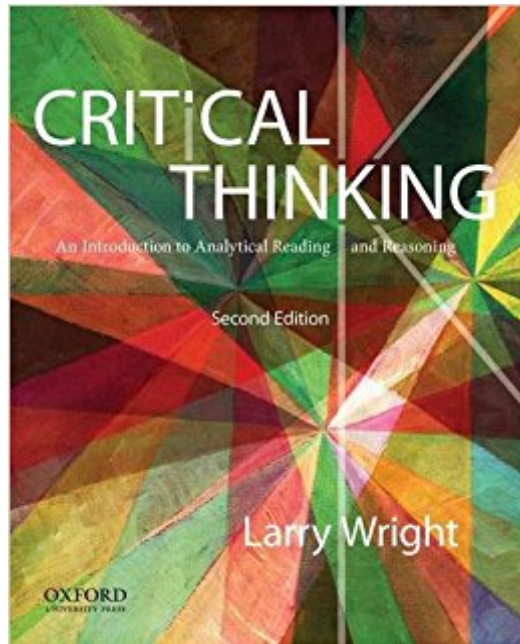


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Critical Thinking: An Introduction To Analytical Reading And Reasoning



Synopsis

Critical Thinking: An Introduction to Analytical Reading and Reasoning, Second Edition, provides a nontechnical vocabulary and analytic apparatus that guide students in identifying and articulating the central patterns found in reasoning and in expository writing more generally. Understanding these patterns of reasoning helps students to better analyze, evaluate, and construct arguments and to more easily comprehend the full range of everyday arguments found in ordinary journalism. Critical Thinking, Second Edition, distinguishes itself from other texts in the field by emphasizing analytical reading as an essential skill. It also provides detailed coverage of argument analysis, diagnostic arguments, diagnostic patterns, and fallacies. Opening with two chapters on analytical reading that help students recognize what makes reasoning explicitly different from other expository activities, the text then presents an interrogative model of argument to guide them in the analysis and evaluation of reasoning. This model allows a detailed articulation of "inference to the best explanation" and gives students a view of the pervasiveness of this form of reasoning. The author demonstrates how many common argument types--from correlations to sampling--can be analyzed using this articulated form. He then extends the model to deal with several predictive and normative arguments and to display the value of the fallacy vocabulary. Ideal for introductory courses in critical thinking, critical reasoning, informal logic, and inductive reasoning, Critical Thinking, Second Edition, features hundreds of exercises throughout and includes worked-out solutions and additional exercises (without solutions) at the end of each chapter. An Instructor's Manual--offering solutions to the text's unanswered exercises and featuring other pedagogical aids--is available on the book's Companion Website at www.oup.com/us/wright.

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"This is the best critical-thinking book on the market. Its strengths are its originality, thoughtfulness, attention to scholarship in informal logic/critical thinking, focus on the importance of critical-reading skills, and practical application to the kinds of reasoning we do every day through a remarkably careful discussion of inference to the best explanation."--Dale Turner, Cal Poly Pomona
"I have seen students understand what they are reading and evaluate arguments in a meaningful way in classes where this text is being used. This in itself motivates me to use it."--Sharon Crasnow, Norco College, Riverside Community College District
"Critical Thinking constitutes a unified approach to a whole trajectory of intellectual development; that is, it can take someone from 'able to read' all the way to 'able to think analytically and creatively about reasoning.'"--Chris Campolo, Hendrix College

Larry Wright is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside, where he has taught since 1970. He is the author of *Practical Reasoning* (1989), *Better Reasoning: Techniques for Handling Argument, Evidence & Abstraction* (1982), and *Teleological Explanations: An Etiological Analysis of Goals and Functions* (1976).

My ultimate goal is to write essays better, and am reading this book for the heck of it, firstly to paraphrase better. There are zillions of books that say "Paraphrase this," but do not say how or what to look for, or anything. The worst of the lot of plagiarism warnings that strike the fear of God into a potential writer, leading him/her to never want to write a word, EVER. Paraphrasing is the key. Paraphrasing is the fulcrum around which re-writing revolves. The first chapter is a zinger. I may not need to read anything else in the book besides the first chapter. It shows step-by-step the guidelines on how to paraphrase. It goes straight for the throat. Indispensable for aspiring writers! Other than that, see if you can get this book cheap. It is way overpriced. I got it for less than half price used. This day and age, with colleges pricing themselves out of the market, people have to think in terms of training themselves how to do things, with help. Sites like straighterline.com, even though imperfect, are headed in the right direction.

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