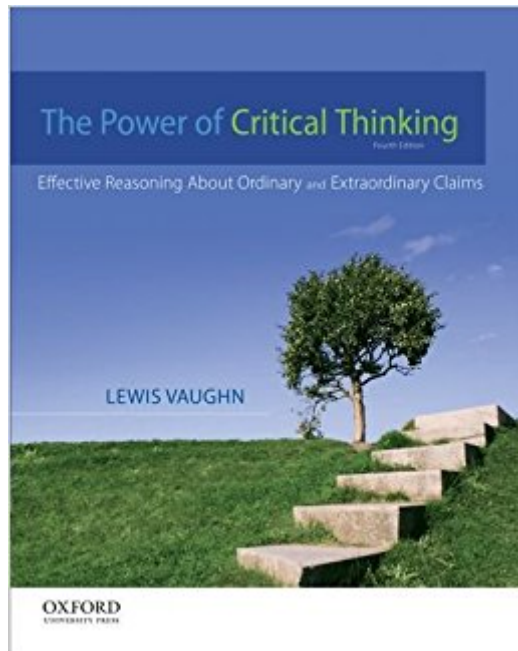


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# The Power Of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning About Ordinary And Extraordinary Claims



## Synopsis

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](http://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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book says useful and interesting things many times but is not constructed in a way to systematically teach logic and provide coherently structured assignments. The directions for assignments are often long and convoluted, asking for many different parts and sub-parts and the answers in the back often don't adhere to the structure in the directions. The structure of the book itself is confusing, with information scattered around and hard to find. It also does not give a good background over arguments in standard form and syllogisms, two very basic concepts for understanding logic. Overall, this book can offer good overviews of subjects and provide interesting examples from the real world but when a book cannot teach the basics it has very little chance of being successful.

Great book for the rental price was exactly what I needed for my class. Will be nice to send it back and let someone else get use of out it for the next semester and not clutter my bookcase.

The first thing you'll notice about this book is that it is a paperback (Hint. Hint.) Secondly, the format reminds one of a poorly-constructed Facebook page: assertion upon assertion, occasional self-contradictions (my assertion) and chopped-up/fragmentary. In short, the author and/or publisher are, I surmise, attempting to be trendy and "relevant ". Thirdly, the author has chosen what I would call a top-down approach to critical thinking. That is, instead of first giving us the "grammar/foundation" for thinking logically, he has chosen to drop the reader into a churning sea of skepticism and human foibles. Then once the reader is drowning in confusion and self-doubt, he deigns to toss him a few lines of "good advice". Fourthly, from what I can tell, there is virtually no difference between the 3rd and 4th editions; except for a few sidebars and examples which are "updated" to make the author appear to be "on the cutting edge". In conclusion, I'm sorry to suggest this, but I believe that this book excels at being an exemplar for how to write a truly inferior textbook. I have no doubt that the author knows at least a hundred times more on this subject than I, but as a communicator ...? My opinion - find something else to read or study. You'll be doing yourself a big favor.

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