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Critical Thinking, Ninth Edition

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Richard Parker
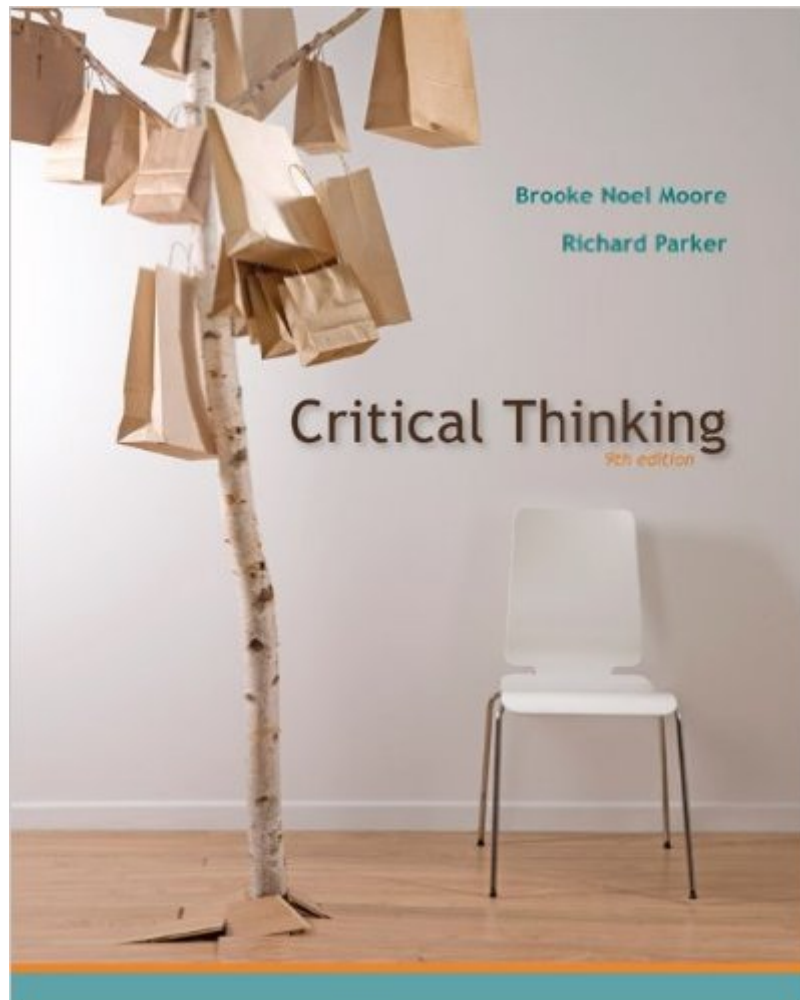
Critical Thinking
9th edition

Synopsis

More than any other textbook, Moore and Parker's Critical Thinking has defined the structure and content of the critical thinking course at colleges and universities across the country--and has done so with a witty writing style that students enjoy. Current examples relevant to today's students bring the concepts of critical thinking to life in vivid detail. This ninth edition offers an abundance of new exercises and examples, as well as a renewed focus on the importance of developing critical thinking skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have taught college-level logic and critical thinking classes for nearly twenty years. During that time I have had ample opportunity to use or peruse more than a dozen texts in the field. Moore and Parker's text falls somewhere in the middle when it comes to introductions to critical thinking and the rudiments of logic. All the basics are included (fallacies, deductive and inductive reasoning, identifying premises and conclusions in informal arguments, etc., etc.), and the authors do a decent job by way of explanation. The exercises at the back of the sections seem reasonably good as well. While by no means the best of the many available text, neither is it the worst. And its price at under $100 makes it more affordable than some and thus is a selling point. (That we even consider a text that is close to $100 as "affordable" speaks volumes about the spiraling cost of many college textbooks. I find myself apologizing almost every semester to my students for how much their textbooks cost.)Having said this, let me note the overarching reason for not using this text. While Moore and Parker have made a valiant attempt to give real-life examples of faulty reasoning

(particularly in their discussion of the fallacies), if one didn't know better, one would think that the only people who engage in suspect reasoning are people on the political right, religious conservatives, and critics of the liberal mindset. As far as I have been able to discern over an adult lifetime of more than four decades, bad reasoning is a province of people of all different perspectives. Real-life examples are great. But so is balance. Slanting one's presentation in this way is never excusable, particularly in a book on critical thinking presumably designed to help guard against such things.

We are using this textbook for my critical thinking course. It does an excellent job of making informal logic interesting. Even when you are reading about things you already know, Moore and Parker make it a fun read by adding in plenty of real-life examples. The exercises for each chapter are tedious but straightforward and effective -- they require a lot of time to complete but I always have a better understanding of the material after completing them. I would recommend this book for any informal logic course.

This is a unique book among critical thinking textbooks, as it is written in a style that is often conversational and humorous. The class I took used a different textbook ("A Practical Study of Argument" by Trudy Govier), and while I found all the concepts in it very meticulously-explained, students also complained that it was dry and repetitive. "Critical Thinking" by Moore and Parker avoids this problem by explaining concepts in a witty, concise manner and provides real-life examples, cartoons and illustrations (something the Govier textbook did not have) that help the reader engage critical thinking at a practical level. However, in some places the textbook explains difficult concepts a bit TOO concisely, so if you are a beginner in this subject with no other resources to help you, you might feel a bit lost at some parts, like in the symbolic logic section. If you are a scratch beginner, you may want to get a secondary textbook to accompany this one, although I would recommend a secondary textbook no matter which textbook you are using for class, for the fact that ALL textbooks have their own particular strengths and weaknesses.Nonetheless, do not pass this book up for whatever reason, because its engagingness is one of a kind for a subject matter that many students would find dry and uninteresting. I would have gladly read this book for leisure had I not taken the critical thinking class.

I have used this book in multiple sections of an introductory logic class I teach at my university. For all the praise it gets, it isn't that good, imho. I treats students like grade-schoolers, barraging them

with unhelpful and trite pop cultural references. Or, it occasionally shoots over their head with political references that, unfortunately, American undergraduates are not likely to make sense of. Worst of all, it seems to consistently pick out persons from one side of the political spectrum for examples of bad thinking. It is either a testament to profoundly unacknowledged biases of the authors, or worse, covertly meant to produce non-rational persuasion(ironically, given the purpose of the book), leading the students to expect non-liberals to be stupid. Whatever your political views, it is unbalanced. There are foolish people on all sides of American political and social thought, though one wouldn't think so after using this book. If you want a thorough introduction to logic, Copi's volume is more authoritative. The Art of Reasoning, by David Kelly is a more streamlined and helpful book, with many good practice examples.

This was one of the books that I used for my Introduction to Logic class when I was in high school. Not only are the concepts explained clearly but they are layed out in a way that does not talk down to you. Its fun to read yet very practical in the sense that there are places where the author(s) correlate informal/formal logic concepts with the real world. One example shows how certain rules in Truth-Functional Logic relate to electrical circuits. In particular for AP English Students, this book can be a great complement to your other required texts. I recommend this to high school/college students, professionals, or enthusiasts who are seeking to better understand and improve their critical thinking skills.

Critical Thinking, Ninth Edition Strategies, Techniques, & Approaches to Critical Thinking: A Clinical Reasoning Workbook for Nurses, 5e (Strategies, Techniques, & Approaches to Thinking) Curriculum and Aims, Fifth Edition (Thinking about Education) (Thinking About Education Series) Thinking with Type, 2nd revised and expanded edition: A Critical Guide for Designers, Writers, Editors, & Students Pharmacology Success: A Q&A Review Applying Critical Thinking to Test Taking (Second Edition) (Davis's Q&a Success) A Workbook for Arguments, Second Edition: A Complete Course in Critical Thinking Discovering Arguments: An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Writing with Readings (2nd Edition) Critical Thinking: Tools for Taking Charge of Your Learning and Your Life (3rd Edition) Breakthrough Thinking: A Guide to Creative Thinking and Idea Generation Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking Thinking Kids’™ Math Analogies, Grade 3 (Thinking Kids (Carson-Dellosa)) Thinker's Guide to Analytic Thinking: How to Take Thinking Apart and What to Look for When You Do Computational Design Thinking: Computation Design Thinking Thinking about Hinduism (Thinking about Religion) Design Thinking

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