



How to Think Logically (2nd Edition)

By Gary Seay, Susana Nuccetelli

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Concise Principles of Reasoning

Concise, yet covering all the basics of a 15-week course in informal logic or critical reasoning, this text engages students with a lively format and clear writing style. The small scale of the book keeps the cost low, a vital consideration in today's economy, yet without compromising on logical rigor.

The author's presentation strikes a careful balance: it offers clear, jargon-free writing while preserving rigor. Brimming with numerous pedagogical features, this accessible text assists students with analysis, reconstruction, and evaluation of arguments and helps them become independent, analytical thinkers.

Introductory students are exposed to the basic principles of reasoning while also

having their appetites whetted for future courses in philosophy.

Teaching and Learning Experience

Improve Critical Thinking - Abundant pedagogical aids -- including exercises and study questions within each chapter -- encourage students to examine their assumptions, discern hidden values, evaluate evidence, assess their conclusions, and more!

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Support Instructors -Teaching your course just got easier! You can create a Customized Text or use our Instructor's Manual, or PowerPoint Presentation Slides. Plus, this concise textbook contains only as much material as you can cover in a course, creating an affordable alternative you can assign with confidence to a cost-conscious student population. Additionally, each chapter in *How to Think Logically* is designed as a self-contained unit so that you can choose the combination and order of chapters according to the needs of your courses; making the text a flexible base for courses in logic, critical thinking, and rhetoric.



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Editorial Review

Review

"The Chapter Summaries were helpful, as were the definitions to the key words because these provide the materials for performing logical operations in an intentional way."

-- Andrew Waskey, *Dalton State College*

About the Author

In This Section:

I. Author Bio

II. Author Letter

I. Author Bio

Gary Seay has taught formal and informal logic since 1979 at the City University of New York, where he is presently professor of philosophy at Medgar Evers College. His articles on moral philosophy and bioethics have appeared in *The American Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, and *The Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, among other journals. With Susana Nuccetelli, he is editor of *Themes from G. E. Moore: New Essays in Epistemology and Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2007), *Philosophy of Language: The Central Topics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007), and *Latin American Philosophy: An Introduction With Readings* (Prentice Hall, 2004). Gary Seay may be contacted at garys@mec.cuny.edu. For more information about his work, visit http://www.mec.cuny.edu/academic_affairs/libarts_ed_school/phil_rel_dept/seay_bio.asp.

Susana Nuccetelli is professor of philosophy at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Her essays in epistemology and philosophy of language have appeared in *Analysis*, *The American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Metaphilosophy*, *The Philosophical Forum*, *Inquiry*, and *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, among other journals. She is editor of *New Essays in Semantic Externalism and Self-Knowledge* (MIT Press, 2003) and author of *Latin American Thought: Philosophical Problems and Arguments* (Westview Press, 2002). She is co-editor of *The Blackwell Companion to Latin American Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009) and, with Gary Seay, *Ethical Naturalism: Current Debates* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2011). Susana Nuccetelli may be contacted at snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu. For more information about her work, visit <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/sinuccetelli/>.

II. Author Letter

Dear Colleague,

Now in a new Second Edition, *How to Think Logically* is a concise and user-friendly textbook for freshman-level logic and critical thinking courses. Focused throughout on arguments and how we may evaluate them,

the book is intended to show students how to distinguish between arguments that ought to persuade us and those that should not. It presents students with criteria for assessing both deductive and inductive reasoning, and it does so in a clear writing style much praised by our students. "This book is well written and structured," students have told us again and again over the ten semesters since it first appeared. "It's easy to understand."

We believe that critical thinking skills are more vital than ever as a component of a liberal education. In a world where college graduates face increasingly fierce competition for jobs, those who are careful reasoners, lucid writers, and clear-headed thinkers are simply better equipped to succeed in any area of specialization. Learning these skills, however, should not be a dry, dull process, but an exercise leavened with humor and down-to-earth examples that students can understand.

How to Think Logically accomplishes these goals with materials designed specifically for readers who have never encountered philosophy before, and for whom analytical thinking may at first be an unfamiliar exercise. In our courses at the City University of New York, at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, and at the University of Texas Pan American, we have used this book with students from a great number of different nationalities, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. Invariably, we find that students respond well to its simple format, lively examples, and plain language.

In addition, this textbook comprises only enough material for a standard fifteen-week course (with flexibility to allow instructors options for different approaches); thus students are not paying for material they don't use. This helps us keep costs down, a welcome feature at a time when students are struggling with soaring tuition and fees!

But at no point does *How to Think Logically* compromise on logical rigor. The book charts a mainstream course through discussions of natural language, meaning, truth, belief, and definition. It discusses twenty of the most common informal fallacies, explaining what is wrong with each type and how to avoid it. It also includes an expanded treatment of deductive reasoning, both in modern, propositional logic (including the rudiments of symbolic notation and natural deduction) and traditional, syllogistic logic. We believe that this is the book instructors have been looking for. It presents a broad and immensely readable approach to introductory-level logic, yet it does so concisely and at moderate cost.

We are interested in hearing from instructors who adopt our book, since we do value their suggestions for improving it. We want to know what works best in the classroom. So please do email us if you have suggestions or criticisms at garys@mec.cuny.edu and sinuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu. We look forward to learning about your experiences with *How to Think Logically*.

Sincerely,

Gary Seay and Susana Nuccetelli
City University of New York and St. Cloud State University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Muriel Carpenter:

Book is definitely written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Close

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Latoya Jones:

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Nicole Floyd:

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