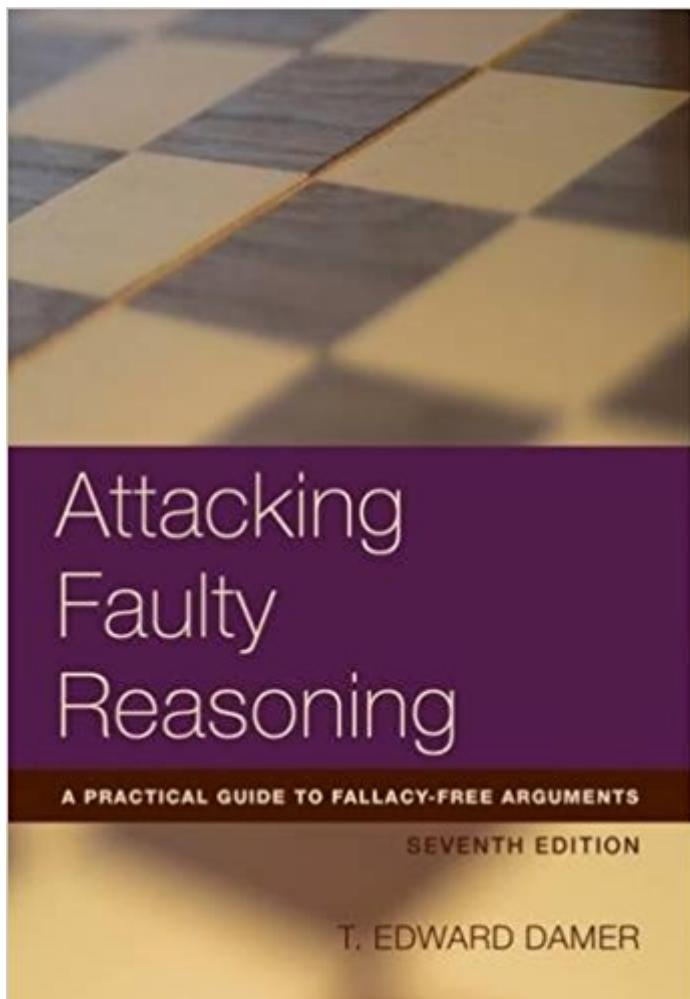


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# Attacking Faulty Reasoning



## **Synopsis**

Increasingly, college courses and programs require a critical thinking component and include assignments meant to measure your critical thinking skills. **ATTACKING FAULTY REASONING: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO FALLACY-FREE ARGUMENTS, SEVENTH EDITION**, can help you brush up on these skills and learn how to develop the logical, persuasive arguments you need now and throughout your career. This useful handbook addresses more than 60 common fallacies of logic with the help of over 200 memorable examples. It provides explanations and tips for "attacking" fallacious thinking, and is an ideal resource when writing papers, essays, or arguments.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"A wonderfully written, extremely clear discussion of argumentation and fallacies chock full of extremely useful examples." "Probably the best book on the market with respect to informal fallacy recognition."

T. Edward Damer received his Ph.D. from Boston University and currently teaches at Emory and Henry College.

Other than emotion, perhaps the most important topic on the planet is personal opinion, yet very little is written not only about the positive and scientific aspects of how opinions vary, but certainly nearly nothing about the essence of faulty reasoning that underlies many opinions, including those of professionals. Since cognition, and certainly neural fields, are evolving toward the evaluation of

thought as dynamical systems with ordinary and partial differential equations, the time may be coming when we look at opinions and arguments algorithmically as well, considering them neural parametric weights, and investigating the underlying functions. The previous edition of this text created an entirely new field of evaluating logical fallacies not only via the underlying and often subtle logical traps, but also from a "30,000" foot view of what I'd call tabular taxonomy weighting-- using pre algorithmic and functional classifications that could readily become algorithmic weight regressions for "species" of error. There are many positive texts written about clarity in research, but this is still the one and only "backing toward your goal" text that covers the diagnosis of weakness indicators. When applied to our own work, it's now the gold standard for honing the evidence and logic behind our findings, observations and opinions. This new edition is not just window dressing to give it a 2013 "feel." The authors have taken the recent feedback and research and further refined their unique "system" of fault diagnosis to include many new shades of fallacy they missed or didn't explore as deeply in the last edition. I especially liked that they are a little more quantitative in this edition, but don't be frightened away by that, as usual, they are very clear in their examples and applications. I'd target this for bright high school students, certainly undergrads, and any grad student or prof in a field of science, law, politics, etc. that relies heavily on less fact and body of knowledge based logic and opinion, including "scientific and legal" opinions and arguments that are supposedly more fact and evidence based. APPLYING things like case precedent, experience, tradition and observation can be as subject to reasoning flaws as can original research that is considered less opinion and more factual. If we look at emerging Democracies that depend heavily on opinions, especially of less educated "voters," you can get an idea of how important promoting the excellence, standards, ethics, logic and honed reasoning this text explores and classifies actually can be. I'd encourage the authors to work on cheaper, shortened versions of their system to help educate us "commoners" as voters and opinion makers, not just takers. I wonder if the authors understand how important their work is not just for scientists, researchers and authors, but thinkers at all levels? If so, let's see an inexpensive spin off that we could even use at K-12, ok? Obviously, this text is a must have if you are in law, science, politics, etc., or even Physics or Math for checking the underpinnings of your proofs. But I'd also argue it is important for any professional in any field (and which doesn't?) that needs to discriminate between argument and evidence-- including medicine, for example. I'm the CTO of labok dot com, a non profit body of knowledge research association, and have nothing to do with , the authors, publishers etc., and in evaluating this text care only about value to potential purchasers. We always purchase the books we review.

Damer pulls off a next to impossible task-naming, describing, exemplifying, and attacking 60 fallacies while structuring them neatly within four criteria of a good argument: relevance, acceptability, sufficient grounds and rebuttal. The last chapter discusses the specifics of "A Code of Conduct for Effective Rational Discussion." I used this test as a key element of my Ph.D. research and continue to use it in my later work. This should be required study for every politician and philosopher. A simpler version should be required study for every middle school and high school student. Discovering what is true would be so much easier with good arguments absence of fallacy. Be the first to rid your "neighborhood" of polemics. Study this book.

Just understanding the basics of arguments gives one a tool for better grounding of one's own arguments and allows you to put your finger on what is bothering you about an argument presented to you.

Although I gathered that this book was written primarily as a text for logic and critical thinking courses, it helped me immensely in terms of learning how to make sense of argumentative quality in everyday life, not only the classroom. I did not read this book for a class as I have graduated college, but I found it to be a real help in determining the strengths and weaknesses in arguments and other forms of persuasive speech that we encounter daily. The book uses clear and familiar everyday examples to make the points, instead of presenting things in an abstract and think-tank way, and most people will find themselves realizing that they have had arguments or debates exactly like those described in the book. The book clearly demonstrates how much reason and critical thinking can be diminished or overlooked by laziness or unwillingness on the part of people to care enough to think well. The chapters follow a clear course and almost every logical fallacy I have ever encountered in the classroom or the real world is covered in the book. It explains the fallacy, gives examples, and shows how to expose the fallacy for being a poor argument, as well as demonstrating ways to combat and point out to the other person (in a nice way) the flaw in the reasoning. The tone of the book is pleasantly informal, as it attempts to create familiar dialogue and situations to which the reader can easily identify. I highly recommend the book and think that anyone who cares enough to want to think more maturely would benefit greatly.

interesting book

So many significant decisions are made in the workplace based on majority opinion or by the

highest ranking person in the room. This book will give the reader the knowledge and insight to put forth good arguments as well as point out how to identify flaws in others. Of particular interest is the author's focus on the quest for the truth, or as he puts it the most defensible position. While the techniques laid out in this book can be used to 'win' arguments, the focus is primarily on helping find the truth. Highly recommended for anyone in business.

I bought this book to prepare for the written part of the GRE. I did not take any philosophy or reasoning classes. I found it very useful, short and easy to read. I was able to get a lot of practical information to utilize in writing my essays without having to read the whole thing. Well worth the money. Furthermore, I enjoyed the content and find myself utilizing the "critical thinking" ideas and tactics in my daily life. And, yes, I'm pleased with my writing score!

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