

Elements Of Argument A Text And Reader Paperback

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this series of books presents the fundamentals of logic in a style accessible to both students and scholars the text of each essay presents a story the main line of development of the ideas while the notes and appendices place the research within a larger scholarly context the essays overlap forming a unified analysis of logic as the art of reasoning well yet each essay is designed so that it may be read independently the question addressed in this volume is how we can justify our beliefs through reasoning the first essay arguments investigates what it is that we call true or false and how we reason toward truths through arguments a general theory of argument analysis is set out on the basis of what we can assume about those with whom we reason the next essay fallacies explains how the classification of an argument as a fallacy can be used within that general approach in contrast there is no agreement on what the terms induction and deduction mean and they are not useful in evaluating arguments as shown in induction and deduction in reasoning to truths in the end we must take some claims as basic not requiring any justification for accepting them how we choose those claims and how they affect our reasoning is examined in base claims the essay analogies considers how comparisons can be used as the basis of arguments arguing from similar situations to similar conclusions an important use of analogies is in reasoning about the mental life of other people and things which is examined in subjective claims written with fred kroon and william s robinson generalizing examines how to argue from part of a collection or mass to the whole or a larger part the question there is whether we are ever justified in accepting such an argument as good probabilities sets out the three main ways probability statements have been interpreted the logical relation view the frequency

view and the subjective degree of belief view each of those is shown to be inadequate to make precise the scale of plausibility of claims and the scale of the likelihood of a possibility many discussions of how to reason well and what counts as good reason are given in terms of who or what is rational in the final essay rationality it s shown that what we mean by the idea of someone being rational is of very little use in evaluating reasoning or actions this volume is meant to give a clearer idea of how to reason well setting out methods of evaluation that are motivated in terms of our abilities and interests at the ground of our reasoning though are metaphysical assumptions too basic and too much needed in our reasoning for us to justify them through reasoning but we can try to uncover those assumptions to see how they are important and what depends on them

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the process of argument an introduction is a necessary companion for anyone seeking to engage in successful persuasion to organize construct and communicate arguments it is both comprehensive and accessible an authoritative guide to logical thinking and effective communication the book begins with techniques to improve reading comprehension including guides on navigating through fake news and internet trolls then readers are taught how to reconstruct deductive inductive and abductive presentations so that the logical structure is explicit and finally there is a step by step guide for responding to these texts via the argumentative essay along the way are current examples from social media and elsewhere on the internet along with guides for assessing truth claims in an ever complicated community worldview throughout are carefully selected reading questions and exercises that will pace readers in order to ensure that the text is securely grasped and successfully applied key features offers guidance on how to read a text through self analysis and social criticism provides a step by step procedure for allowing the student to move from reading to reconstruction to being prepared to write an effective argumentative essay presents truth theory and shows readers

how they can helpfully acquaint themselves with a version of realistic foundational epistemology offers guidelines and helpful tools on how best to structure an argumentative pro or con essay includes expansive coverage of inductive logic through the use and assessment of statistics covers abductive logic as it applies to the analysis of narrative in argumentative writing has up to date examples from the media including from blogs social media and television includes a helpful glossary of all important terms in the book

junior high aged students will argue and sometimes quarrel but they won't argue well without good training young teens are also targeted by advertisers with a vengeance from billboards to commercials to a walk down the mall fallacious arguments are everywhere you look the art of argument was designed to teach the argumentative adolescent how to reason with clarity relevance and purpose at a time when he has a penchant for the why and how it is designed to equip and sharpen young minds as they live play and grow in this highly commercial culture this course teaches students to recognize and identify twenty eight informal fallacies and the eye catching text includes over sixty slick and clever phony advertisements for items from blue jeans to pick up trucks which apply the fallacies to a myriad of real life situations

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