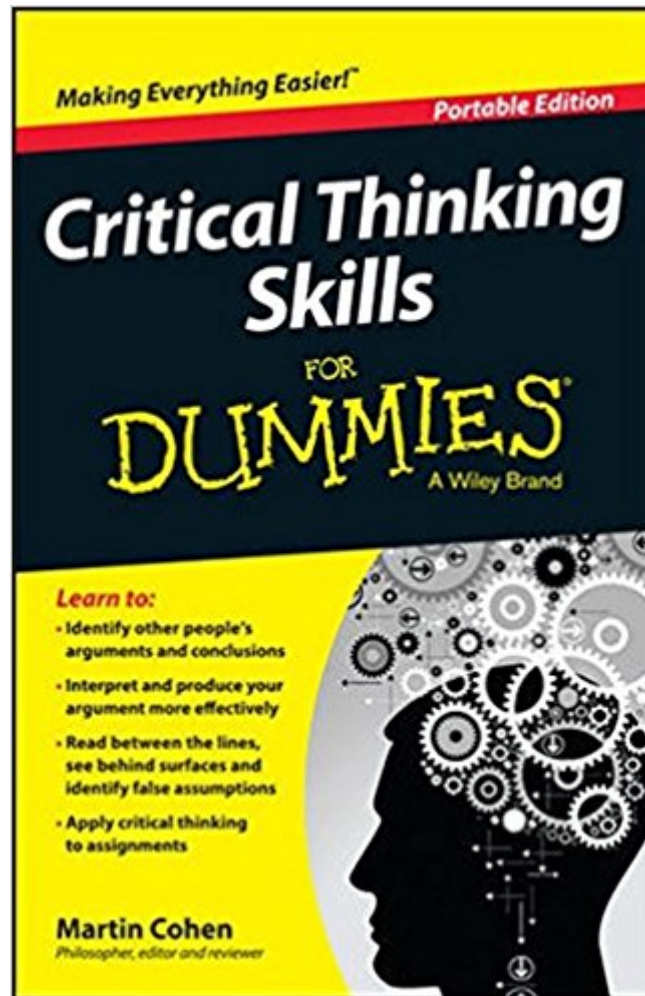




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# Critical Thinking Skills For Dummies



## Synopsis

Turbocharge your reasoning with Critical Thinking – Just what are the ingredients of a great argument? What is the secret to communicating your ideas clearly and persuasively? And how do you see through sloppy thinking and flim-flam? – If you’ve ever asked any of these questions, then this book is for you! – These days, strong critical thinking skills provide a vital foundation for academic success, and Critical Thinking Skills For Dummies offers a clear and unintimidating introduction to what can otherwise be a pretty complex topic. Inside, you’ll get hands-on, lively, and fun exercises that you can put to work today to improve your arguments and pin down key issues. – With this accessible and friendly guide, you’ll get plain-English instruction on how to identify other people’s assumptions, methodology, and conclusions, evaluate evidence, and interpret texts effectively. You’ll also find tips and guidance on reading between the lines, assessing validity – “and even advice on when not to apply logic too rigidly! Critical Thinking Skills for Dummies: Provides tools and strategies from a range of disciplines great for developing your reflective thinking skills Offers expert guidance on sound reasoning and textual analysis Shows precisely how to use concept mapping and brainstorming to generate insights Demonstrates how critical thinking skills is a proven path to success as a student Whether you’re undertaking reviews, planning research projects or just keen to give your brain a workout, Critical Thinking Skills For Dummies equips you with everything you need to succeed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The "...for Dummies" books have a reputation for being shallow introductions to sometimes complicated subjects, and there are Dummies books that are exactly that. Not this one. This is a very well organized, well written guide to the essential skills involved in critical thinking and to the pitfalls that need to be avoided when engaged in it. It's probably intended for college students and adults, but I think high school kids could handle it, too. The author, is a British academic philosopher who has written two well-known introductory texts, "101 Philosophy Problems" and "101 Ethical Dilemmas." In this book, he illustrates critical thinking skills in part by the way he organizes it. He offers a definition of critical thinking and then explains each component of his definition. The end result is a well structured argument that explains the "rules" for arguing one's own point and for refuting the arguments of others. Philosophy books have a well deserved reputation for being dense. One often has the feeling of swimming in oatmeal; it takes tremendous effort, but it doesn't seem to produce any noticeable progress. This book isn't like that at all. It's not light, but it's very clear and readable. As is the case with all of the "...for Dummies" books, the material is presented in short, easy to digest bites. But nothing is dumbed down. I recommend the book most highly. I just wish more people-- especially those posting political and religious rants online-- would read it...

I usually love the Dummies guides, and this one in particular is already on the top of my list. First of all, I will say this book comes in a different size than the regular collection. It is 5.4 x 8.5 inches. I actually like this choice because this book is meant to be a college companion, so with this smaller size, the book can be easier taken with you. As I just said, I believe this book should be an essential college companion, even it should be for high schoolers. As such, the book explores all about critical thinking in 5 parts. Part I explores the world of critical thinking. Part II develops your critical thinking skills. Part III is all about applying those skills previously learned. In Part IV, reason and argument are explored deeper. Finally, in part V, the authors present logical pitfalls and how to avoid them, as well as ten arguments that changed the world. All in all, this is an essential companion for college students and high school students alike. Adults who may be in need of reviewing fundamentals of critical thinking will find this guide extremely helpful as well. I am recommending this without hesitation. 5 star!

Critical thinking is a skill largely abandoned in high schools and colleges. The evidence that Americans are missing these skills confronts you every day. Just read the drivel on any social media site or the comments on websites such as those owned by The New York Times, Washington Post and other high-profile media outlets. Largely moronic one-liners attempting to sum

up complex political situations, endless juvenile name-calling and simplistic reasoning that entirely ignores known facts. Author Martin Cohen first defines critical thinking and then sets about to explain each part of the thought package that comprises the art and science of critical thinking. There are rules for arguing a point and rules for parsing an opponent's argument. Cohen explains that critical thinking is largely concerned with avoiding logical fallacies and following the rules of a good essay structure. Cohen writes in a straightforward way and he breaks each concept of critical thinking down into manageable parts. I like his style. In just sort of 300 pages, Cohen explains everything you need to know about how to think critically about any subject. This really is an excellent text if you never had a course in high school or college or just want a refresher. By the end of the book, I was wishing a lot more people would be reading it. Jerry

I am a critical thinker by nature, but I have a friend who definitely is not. I've been trying to find a good book or two to help him out. Goodness knows, I've tried to help him. He's not that thick, but a book that gets right to the heart of the problem, just short of being terse, is what he could use. It would "give him the answers" and allow him to review them when needed. This book covers the bases, but it's far too wordy. There are quotes and sidebars galore, which I found to serve mainly as distractions. Every now and then, I'd come across some "basics" of critical thinking. But the journey getting there was long. Much of the information in the book is nice to know, but if you threw it out, the book would be much better. Just so you know what I'm talking about when I say "basics", here are a few which the author covers: Analogy: The ability to draw accurate analogies to the problem at hand is important. Making good analogies and recognizing bad ones is a great tool. Thought experiments: Einstein did this often. It is the ability to visualize a realistic scenario to mentally test things that you are unable to test in the real world, either because you lack the time or the means. Logic and Logical Fallacies: In layman's terms, this is how to think in way that produces correct results while avoiding mental pitfalls. I believe that the book would be much better if the author cut out all the "conversation" and just explained the tools of critical thinking and how and when to use them. He knows what he's talking about but he takes a long time getting to what really matters.

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