INFORMAL LOGIC
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Book Abstracts

Burbidge, John (1990). ***Within Reason: A Guide to Non-Deductive Reasoning***. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press. ISBN 0-921149-55-7.

An analogy notices a similarity between different things, and it is used to identify a proposition or relation. Working within this definition, *Within Reason* shows how various forms of non-deductive reasoning are variations on analogical arguments: induction, both simple and statistical, correlation, replies to objections, explanations, reasoning to action. A final chapter talks about assessing arguments that do not fit any standard pattern. Illustrative examples and most of the exercises are taken from the philosophical tradition or respected uses. Since there is seldom a neat answer, the student is encouraged to develop skills in exercising judgement. Broadview Press has a set of possible answers for the use of instructors.

Fogelin, Robert & Sinnott-Armstrong, Walter (1990). ***Understanding Arguments: An Introduction to Informal Logic (4th ed.)***. San Diego: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. ISBN 0-15-592672-1.

This concise, clear, and lively textbook uses theories of speech acts and conversational implication to explore fallacies, suppressed premises, and the role of common words in arguments. There are also chapters on propositional logic, syllogistic logic, induction, probability, and a new simplified version of Mill's methods. Part Two includes introductions to legal, moral, scientific, and philosophical reasoning, together with complete, forceful essays by opponents on controversial issues in these areas (affirmative action, abortion, creationism, and artificial intelligence), so students can apply the methods of argumentation they have learned. There are numerous exercises and discussion questions, and an instructor's manual is available.

Little, J. Frederick, Groarke, Leo, & Tindale, Christopher W. (1989). ***Good Reasoning Matters! A Constructive Approach to Critical Thinking***. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart. ISBN 0-7710-5313-4.

Traditionally, attempts to make sense of ordinary reasoning have relied on fallacy theory. *Good Reasoning Matters!* adopts an alternative approach that emphasizes good reasoning and the construction of good arguments. In place of fallacies, it defines various forms of good argumentation, treating fallacious reasoning as a secondary concern that arises when arguments fail to fulfill the criteria for good arguments from authority, good arguments from ignorance, good two wrongs arguments, etc. The emphasis on forms of good argument is conjoined with a general discussion of the nature of arguments, an introduction to propositional and syllogistic reasoning and an account of the use and misuse of language in argumentative contexts.

Yanal, Robert J. (1988). ***Basic Logic***. St. Paul: West Publishing. ISBN 0-314-64284-6.

Basic Logic is for courses in Critical Thinking, Practical Reasoning, and the like. It focuses on assessing the validity of arguments. The chapters are as follows: Arguments (their functions, parts); Argument Diagrams (gets students to see what is being argued for and what are the reasons); Evaluating Arguments (the difference between validity and soundness); Conjunction, Disjunction, and Conditionals (propositional logic with rules of do's and don'ts, eschewing proofs); Categorical Arguments (Venn diagrams); Falsehoods (false alternatives, stereotypes, etc.); Meaning and Circularity (validity by virtue of meaning, begging the question); Inductive Generalizations, Analogical Arguments, and Causal Arguments (rules for inductive logic in terms of what makes arguments stronger, weaker); and Everyday Inductions (ad hominem appeals, appeals to authority, etc.). Exercises with room for answers on tear-out pages are provided, along with a glossary.

Book abstracts as provided by authors.