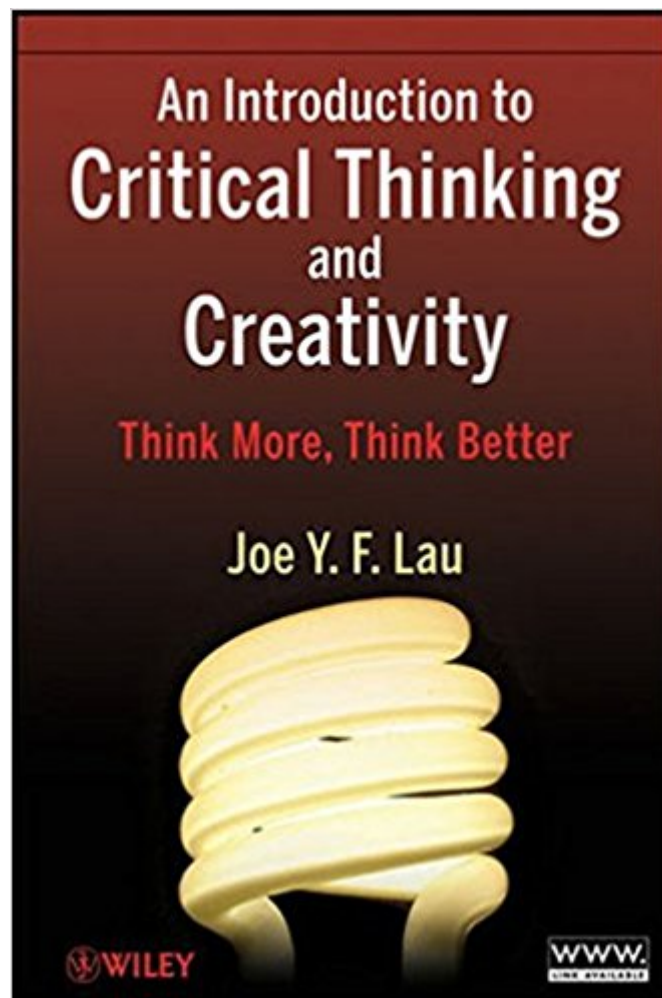




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# An Introduction To Critical Thinking And Creativity: Think More, Think Better



## Synopsis

A valuable guide on creativity and critical thinking to improve reasoning and decision-making skills. Critical thinking skills are essential in virtually any field of study or practice where individuals need to communicate ideas, make decisions, and analyze and solve problems. *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity: Think More, Think Better* outlines the necessary tools for readers to become critical as well as creative thinkers. By gaining a practical and solid foundation in the basic principles that underlie critical thinking and creativity, readers will become equipped to think in a more systematic, logical, and imaginative manner. Creativity is needed to generate new ideas to solve problems, and critical thinking evaluates and improves an idea. These concepts are uniquely introduced as a unified whole due to their dependence on each other. Each chapter introduces relevant theories in conjunction with real-life examples and findings from cognitive science and psychology to illustrate how the theories can be applied in numerous fields and careers. An emphasis on how theoretical principles of reasoning can be practical and useful in everyday life is featured, and special sections on presentation techniques, the analysis of meaning, decision-making, and reasoning about personal and moral values are also highlighted. All chapters conclude with a set of exercises, and detailed solutions are provided at the end of the book. A companion website features online tutorials that further explore topics including meaning analysis, argument analysis, logic, statistics, and strategic thinking, along with additional exercises and multimedia resources for continued study. *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity* is an excellent book for courses on critical thinking and logic at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The book also serves as a self-contained study guide for readers interested in the topics of critical thinking and creativity as a unified whole.

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## Customer Reviews

A valuable guide on creativity and critical thinking to improve reasoning and decision-making skills. Critical thinking skills are essential in virtually any field of study or practice where individuals need to communicate ideas, make decisions, and analyze and solve problems. *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity: Think More, Think Better* outlines the necessary tools for readers to become critical as well as creative thinkers. By gaining a practical and solid foundation in the basic principles that underlie critical thinking and creativity, readers will become equipped to think in a more systematic, logical, and imaginative manner. Creativity is needed to generate new ideas to solve problems, and critical thinking evaluates and improves an idea. These concepts are uniquely introduced as a unified whole due to their dependence on each other. Each chapter introduces relevant theories in conjunction with real-life examples and findings from cognitive science and psychology to illustrate how the theories can be applied in numerous fields and careers. An emphasis on how theoretical principles of reasoning can be practical and useful in everyday life is featured, and special sections on presentation techniques, the analysis of meaning, decision-making, and reasoning about personal and moral values are also highlighted. All chapters conclude with a set of exercises, and detailed solutions are provided at the end of the book. A companion website features online tutorials that further explore topics including meaning analysis, argument analysis, logic, statistics, and strategic thinking, along with additional exercises and multimedia resources for continued study. *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity* is an excellent book for courses on critical thinking and logic at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The book also serves as a self-contained study guide for readers interested in the topics of critical thinking and creativity as a unified whole.

Joe Lau [He](#) graduated from Oxford and MIT. He [is](#) currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy of The University of Hong Kong.

Good textbook, useful to prepare introductory classes.

An easy to read, concise book on causality and judgement principles. I would suggest it to all

academicians and medical journal editors and reviewers dealing with scientific researches and reviews....

I had to read this book for a college class and I do not care for it. Just when you think that you understand the point of what he is saying you get the but then there is this and that blah blah blah..... and then confusion sets in.

The organized content is fairly standard and provides a reasonably comprehensive introduction to or review of the topic. For the most part the writing is easy to understand. The use of symbolic forms is kept to a minimum, which is fortunate, since they are often not well defined. One major weak area of the book is that many of the examples show that the Lau himself neglected to engage in critical thinking when writing the book. For example, in discussing the linguistic pitfall of equivocation, he sets up a straw man by changing the definitions used in the citation (equivocation) in a way not intended by the author cited. (The citation would have made a fair example of ambiguity.) In another chapter, to demonstrate the difference between expressing an opinion and making an argument, Lau uses as his example of an argument something that itself is merely an opinion. In a section of the statistical uses of relative quantity, he dismisses a misuse of the concept but substitutes an absolute quantity for the appropriate relationship. These are only three examples: failure to demonstrate critical thinking is a common occurrence. A second, smaller, problem is that his examples tend to be politically one-sided rather than drawn in a more-or-less evenly balanced manner from various parts of the political spectrum (or avoiding controversy altogether). Not all of the examples are of that sort, but there are enough that a reader of a different political persuasion would be irritated over the author's polemics disguised as teaching. I would not be surprised to find a reader in agreement with the author's politics to become irritated as well. Although the chapter on probability and statistics is a nice addition of a topic that is all too often missing, it does not sufficiently overcome the weak areas for me to recommend the book.

The book is basically well written, but the key is how well thought out is it and there I must admit it's not always on the mark. First it has an incredible bias which gets in the way of his very thorough discussion of logic i.e. critical thinking. It is thorough and hits all the types of critical reasoning I know and gives examples of each. The discussion on creativity though is rather meagre and runs only one small chapter, at the end. It seemed more of an add on then truly part of the package.

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