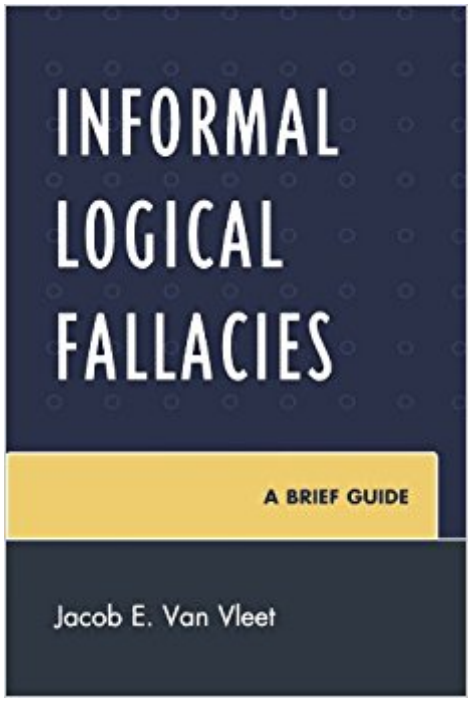
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Informal Logical Fallacies: A Brief Guide



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Synopsis

Critical thinking is now needed more than ever. This accessible and engaging book provides the necessary tools to question and challenge the discourse that surrounds us Ã¢â ¬â ¢- whether in the media, the classroom, or everyday conversation. Additionally, it offers readers a deeper understanding of the foundations of analytical thought. Informal Logical Fallacies: A Brief Guide is a systematic and concise introduction to more than forty fallacies, from anthropomorphism and argumentum ad baculum, to reductionism and the slippery slope argument. With helpful definitions, relevant examples, and thought-provoking exercises, the author guides the reader through the realms of fallacious reasoning and deceptive rhetoric. This is an essential guide to philosophical reflection and clear thinking.

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Customer Reviews

Informal Logical Fallacies: A Brief Guide is full of helpful information. It will be incredibly useful to anyone interested in effective communication and argumentation. (Arthur Mielke, Dominican University of California)

Jacob E. Van Vleet teaches philosophy at Diablo Valley College in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This little book is an excellent introductory survey of informal fallacies. And it is more.Prof. Vleet also explains the basics of formal logic. He includes good examples of each term and concept. He

provides exercises to challenge the reader to then use what is learned. And he provides a good glossary of terms at the end.The greatest strengths of this book are the author's clarity of definitions and expression, his focus upon essentials, and his brevity.The best introduction to informal fallacies and formal logic that I've seen. Highly recommend.

A friend of mine (Attorney/Philosopher/Writer) recommended this book for me because I wanted to sharpen my persuasion skills. I was blown away by this book. The explanations of each fallacy is concise without getting bogged down or dragging on. The information is easy to absorb and very clear. If you are on the fence about this book, I highly recommend it.

I really love this book because it exposes to me the flaws in arguments that people always use. It opens up my mind and make me realize that I should not blindly accept all the arguments because most of the ideologies that I have been accepting since I was young always have flaws.

Gives me a common language with which to explain to my students what is wrong with their writing and thinking. Contains the most common errors explained in a way that students can understand. Helps me in my own thinking and expression too, of course.

Dr. Van VleetÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Informal Logical FallaciesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a straightforward and intellectually balanced book. This book encompasses various erroneous reasoning that we can easily hear in daily life and from popular media.The explanations of each fallacy is extremely refined and moderate so that you can preclude the risk of overthinking. The examples very down-to-earth, readers could easily grasp the heart of each fallacy. I highly recommend this book.

Enjoyable read.

If you are new to the topic, this is a good introduction. The narrative is simple, embellished with examples hence easy to understand.

This is a somewhat useful listing of informal logical fallacies, brevity being one of its chief virtues. Considering what passes for political discussion and debate on TV these days, it's helpful to have some idea of the ways people use fallacious reasoning to distort issues and create misleading

impressions.That said, the book suffers from weak scholarship and a lack of subtlety. Examples of fallacious reasoning should have at least a superficial plausibility, but under the Fallacy of Composition we get, "The terrorists who attacked us were Muslims. Therefore, all Muslims are terrorists." This is so illogical it’s stupid.I’d have preferred a more plausible fallacy, such as "Men who cheat on their wives lie about where they are and what they’re doing. Mary’s husband lied to her about where he was and what he was doing, so he must be cheating on her." This may seem plausible, but change the statement to ""Men who cheat on their wives have belly buttons. Mary’s husband has a belly button, so he must be cheating on her." and the flawed reasoning emerges.A further weakness is the choice of descriptors Bifurcation and False Dilemma. According to the author, Bifurcation is the presentation of two choices as if they were the only choices, whereas False Dilemma is the presentation of three or more such choices. While Bifurcation (also called False Dichotomy) literally means TWO choices, so, really, does False Dilemma. The "bi" in bifurcation and the "di" in dilemma and dichotomy are Greek for TWO. And while American Heritage’s usage notes indicate that some of their experts accept more than two choices for dilemma, many still consider it limited to two.Other than that, if you’re interested in the subject of fallacious reasoning, this is a good way to stick your toe in the water.

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