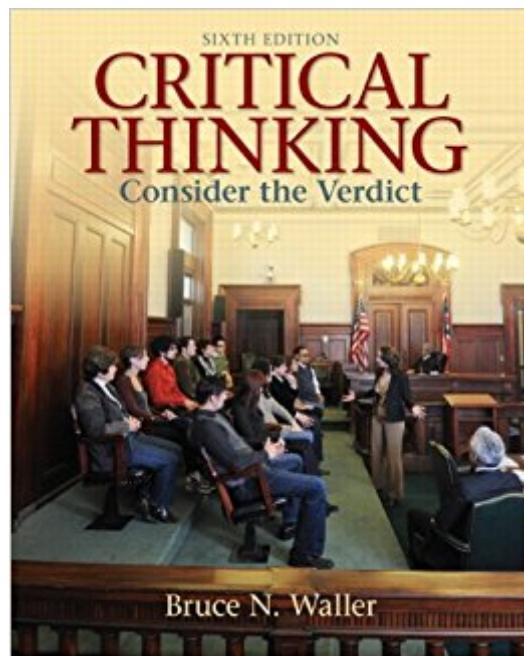


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# Critical Thinking: Consider The Verdict (6th Edition)



## Synopsis

-- Integrating Logic Skills into the Critical Decision-Making Process   Organized around lively and authentic examples drawn from jury trials, contemporary political and social debate, and advertising, Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict shows students how to detect fallacies and how to examine and construct cogent arguments.  Accessible and reader friendly yet thorough and rigorous Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict shows students how to integrate all logic skills into the critical decision-making process, and construct arguments from examples gained through the study of contemporary and historic debates, both legal and popular.  Teaching and Learning Experience Improve Critical Thinking - Argue Your Case segments, Consider the Verdict boxes, real-life examples and cases, and an optional chapter on Thinking Critically about Statistics all encourage students to examine their assumptions, discern hidden values, evaluate evidence, assess their conclusions, and more!  Engage Students - Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict's readable, conversational style, wealth of exercises, suggested Website resources, glossary (and more!) allows your students to easily read, understand and engage with the text.

Support Instructors - Teaching your course just got easier! You can create a Customized Text or use our Instructor's Manual, Electronic MyTest Test Bank or PowerPoint Presentation Slides. Plus, instructors find it easy to teach from Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict because students are given an argument context that orients them to new material and helps them place it in a familiar setting giving you the freedom to present different, complimentary material in class! 

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âœExcellent: explanations are very clear; end of section exercises reinforce the material in the text very effectively; diagrams and inset examples are also helpful. "Victoria Rogers, Indiana University- Perdue University Indianapolis

âœI really liked the way Waller uses a court of law to organize this text. "Eli Kanon, University of North Florida

âœI have been using Waller's book (4th and 5th editions) for years and I find it is an excellent way to introduce critical thinking to students and to show the importance of it in daily life. I especially like how he reasons out in words truth table reasoning rather than simply teaching it as a plug and chug methods. "Jean Miller, Virginia Tech

âœI like the pedagogy of the book. Having used it in the past, it worked quite well. "Glenn Sanford, Sam Houston State University

âœThe first half of the text focuses on how to recognize and construct a good argument, while the second half of the text deals with how to recognize and avoid bad arguments." "Chris Clayton, Portland Community College

In This Section: I. Author Bio II. Author Letter

I. Author Bio

Dr. Bruce N. Waller is Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Youngstown State University. He received his Ph.D. in 1979 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His other works include Consider Ethics: Theory, Readings, and Contemporary Issues, Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict, You Decide! Current Debates in Criminal Justice, You Decide! Current Debates in Contemporary Moral Problems, You Decide! Current Debates in Introductory Philosophy, You Decide! Current Debates in Ethics, Coffee and Philosophy: A Conversational Introduction to Philosophy with Readings, and Against Moral Responsibility.

II. Author Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I've taught a wide range of philosophy courses, including Intro to Philosophy, Bioethics, Logic, and Ethical theory. All those courses are fun and I've been lucky to have students who seem to genuinely enjoy studying philosophy. The course I teach most often, Critical Thinking, is the course my students usually enjoy the most. It's a course in which you can actually watch students become significantly more confident and more effective in critical thinking. Above all, it is a course in which students never pose that dreadful philosophical query: Is this course really relevant to my life? It's no accident that courtroom dramas dominate popular

television. The courtroom an ideal setting for the careful study of critical thinking: first, because students find the setting interesting and have no doubt of its importance; and second, because so many key issues in critical thinking are played out in jury deliberations. Jurors must be able to detect misleading and ambiguous statements, separate relevant from irrelevant material, keep in mind who does and does not bear the burden of proof, understand the judgeâ™s instructions, weigh the strengths and weaknesses of appeals to authority, and not only identify fallacies but also understand and appreciate legitimate arguments. Â The 6th edition of Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict, like the previous editions, uses the courtroom and the jury room as a laboratory for work on critical thinking. But as in earlier editions, it is clear that the critical deliberations of the courtroom are not the only place that critical thinking is important, and they are certainly not the settings in which most students will use their critical thinking skills most of the time. Critical thinking is also important in evaluating commercials, deciding how to vote and considering major social issues. Thus while Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict, 6th editionuses the courtroom and the jury room to study and exercise critical thinking skills, the great majority of the examples and exercises come from other sources: advertisements, political campaigns, letters to the editor, editorials, and ordinary discussions. Â There are new exercises and examples in every chapter of the new edition, but the most significant change from earlier editions is more attention to cooperative critical thinking. The adversarial system that dominates legal proceedings and drives political campaigns is often valuable. Adversarial argument is by no means the only type of argument, discussion and inquiry we pursue, and even the legal process has in many cases moved toward more cooperative proceedings. And of course, in discussions among friends and family and colleagues, we often find a cooperative discussion, which seeks shared benefits and emphasizes common goals, more valuable than an adversarial process which results in winners and losers. Â I would be delighted to hear from anyone reviewing, teaching, or studying this book, and am always happy to receive suggestions for improvements as well as new examples for analysis. My email is bnwaller@ysu.edu. Â Cheers, Â Bruce N. Waller Â Youngstown State University

Long to read, but readable. Plenty of examples. (like most text books, it might be too much for some people, better than error-ing the other way around)

This book was a college class requirement. It was helpful to me because it told about what is the basis for being an effective juror. What I have learned will be useful for me when I am choosing for juror duty.

Very well written, easy to understand and fascinating subject. I was required to buy this book for my logic class. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in understanding the basics of logical arguments

This book has been great. And super cheap I can't complain!

This book was very helpful for my philosophy class, thanks so much for everything! And my sipping was very quick!

as advertised

ok

My honor student got an F in this class. I think the book is ok. May be hard to follow. The instructor I understood did not use this book much!!! WONDER WHY!!!! It's a school requirement so the students don't have much choice. Can't blame the author!!!!

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