Critical Thinking

2024 Release

Brooke Noel Moore

Richard Parker

California State University, Chico

with help in Chapter 12
from Nina Rosenstand and Anita Silvers

Mc Graw Hill

CRITICAL THINKING, 2024 RELEASE

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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 LWI 29 28 27 26 25 24

ISBN 978-1-266-55573-2(bound edition)
MHID 1-266-55573-0 (bound edition)
ISBN 978-1-266-90346-5 (loose leaf edition)
MHID 1-266-90346-1 (loose leaf edition)

Associate Portfolio Manager: *Elisa Odoardi*
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Cover Image: *Jacqui Langeland/McGraw Hill*
Compositor: *Straive*

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Moore, Brooke Noel, author. | Parker, Richard (Richard B.), author.
Title: Critical thinking / Brooke Noel Moore, Richard Parker, California State University, Chico; with help in Chapter 12 from Nina Rosenstand and Anita Silvers.
Description: 2024 release. | New York, NY : McGraw Hill LLC, 2024.
Identifiers: LCCN 2023045563 | ISBN 9781266555732 (bound edition; acid-free paper) | ISBN 1266555730 (bound edition; acid-free paper) | ISBN 9781266903465 (loose leaf edition; acid-free paper) | ISBN 1266903461 (loose leaf edition; acid-free paper)
Subjects: LCSH: Critical thinking.
Classification: LCC B105.T54 M66 2024 | DDC 160–dc23/eng/20231027
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023045563

The Internet addresses listed in the text were accurate at the time of publication. The inclusion of a website does not indicate an endorsement by the authors or McGraw Hill LLC, and McGraw Hill LLC does not guarantee the accuracy of the information presented at these sites.

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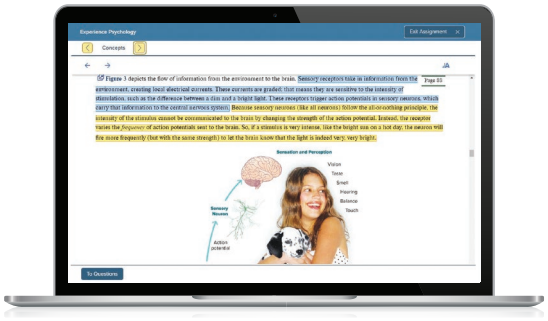

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Jordan Cunningham, a student at *Eastern Washington University*

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CHANGES TO THE 2024 RELEASE

After years of studying the problem, we've concluded that one reason students don't do reading assignments is that reading assignments contain words.

So, in this release, we try a new approach: fewer words. Fewer words, fewer sentences, fewer semicolons. We've revised the book to make it more readable, navigable, and reviewable, especially for online readers. Key-point summaries and numerous location indicators are embedded frequently throughout this edition of the text to facilitate efficient reading and review. Concepts, principles, and evaluation criteria are easily spotted and are clearly illustrated by short examples.

If you are an instructor, you will want to know that definitions of several fundamental concepts have been simplified, refined, and made more intuitive. These include the definitions of deduction and induction, factual and nonfactual statements, causal hypothesis, and instantiation.

Material on testing causal statements now treats the null hypothesis.

Evaluation criteria for inductive reasoning have been simplified, reduced in number, and made more intuitive.

Generalizing from nonrandom samples is treated as a form of analogical argument. This reduces the evaluation criteria for both types of argument to what is essentially a single, simplified criterion.

The chapter on truth-functional logic emphasizes that it is a system of natural deduction. The material presumes no background in formal logic, and proceeds at small, easy-to-follow steps.

■ Moore lectures to a packed classroom.

Brooke Moore

Likewise, the complexities of basic statistical inference are made understandable to readers who have no background in statistics.

In the chapter on credibility, we consider when a claim's content presents believability problems, and when a source presents credibility problems. Then we examine various sources of information with respect to their credibility and authority.

As always, we distinguish logic from persuasion, logical force from rhetorical impact.

New to this edition is the Base Rate Fallacy. You will find new boxes on interesting topics such as the "Platinum Rule" and Critical Race Theory. We have broadened the discussion of untestable explanations to untestable statements used for any purpose.

The section of the last chapter which formerly discussed fundamental moral perspectives has been revised. It now covers the foundations of moral reasoning: "outcome morality," "rule morality," "virtue morality," "moral relativism," "moral subjectivism," and "religious absolutism."

Finally, we want to remind readers that an appendix to the book still contains over 200 additional critical thinking exercise items from previous editions.

Recently, we were startled to hear David Muir, anchor of ABC World News Tonight, explain to "younger members" of his audience what answering machines and landlines were. We hope first- and second-year college students who are unfamiliar with antiquities like these will still find this book culturally relevant and user friendly.

Acknowledgments

You may find mistakes in this book. Who made them? Moore blames Parker; Parker blames Moore. Neither blame the people we are about to list, who have helped us enormously in our effort to improve. In a previous edition, we tried to blame everything on Terry McGraw, but someone said we couldn't do that.

For thanks, we begin with our caring brand manager Elisa Oboardi and our astute and amazing production manager, Katherine Habr. Katherine, who works with us on other projects, is efficient and wise. We are indebted to her for her patience and knowledge. She is a fantastic asset. Thanks, Katherine. We also want to thank our entire McGraw Hill Education team, including Melissa M. Leick, Laura Payne, Gina Oberbroeckling, and Kim Schroeder-Freund, and Kala Ramachandran.

The guidance of our reviewers over the editions has been indispensable to us. These reviewers include

Keith Abney, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
James Anderson, San Diego State University
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Dennis Weiss, York College of Pennsylvania
Linda L. Williams, Kent State University
Amy Goodman Wilson, Webster University
Christine Wolf
Wayne Yuen, Ohlone College; and
Marie G. Zaccaria, Georgia Perimeter College

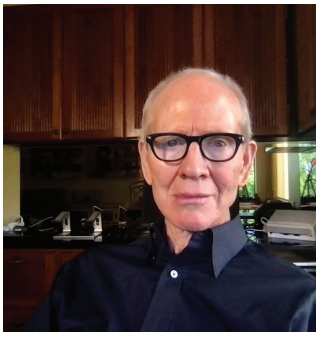
Over the years, our Chico State colleague Anne Morrissey has given us more usable material than anybody else. She's also given us more unusable material, but never mind. We've also had fine suggestions and examples from Curtis Peldo of Chico State and Butte College; Dan Barnett, also of Butte College, has helped in many ways over the years.

We thank colleagues at Chico State, who are ever ready with a suggestion, idea, or constructive criticism; in particular, Marcel Daguerre, Randy Larsen, Becky White, Wai-hung Wong, Zanja Yudell, and Greg Tropea, whose death in 2010 left us saddened beyond words. We are also grateful to Bangs Tapscott, Linda Kaye Bomstad, Ann Bykerk-Kauffman, Sue Patterson, and Jeffrey Ridenour for contributions both archival and recent. David Connelly, from Cayuga Community College, helped us rethink the objective/subjective distinction; we appreciate that.

Michael Parker, Headmaster of Newington College in Sydney, Australia, contributed nice material on Chat GPT. Mr. Parker is starting a critical thinking and ethics center at Newington College, and we wish him well.

Last, and especially, we give thanks to two people who put up with us with patience, encouragement, and grace, Leah Blum and Marianne Moore.

About the Authors



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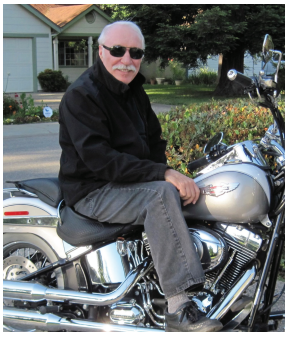

Richard Parker

Brooke Moore and Richard Parker are emeriti faculty in philosophy at the California State University, Chico. After all this time working together they are still on speaking terms.

To:	
Alexander and Levi	Sherry and Bill; and Sydney, Darby, Peyton Elizabeth, and Griffin
From Richard	From Brooke

This is not entirely a work of nonfiction.