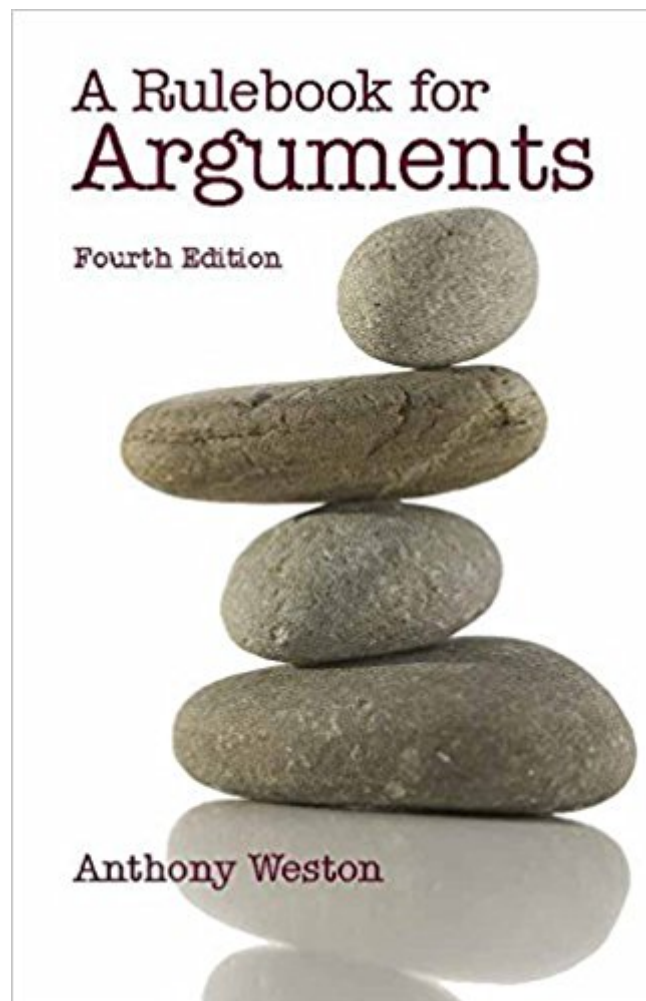




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A Rulebook For Arguments (Hackett Student Handbooks)



Synopsis

A Rulebook for Arguments is a succinct introduction to the art of writing and assessing arguments, organized around specific rules, each illustrated and explained soundly but briefly. This widely popular primer--translated into eight languages--remains the first choice in all disciplines for writers who seek straightforward guidance about how to assess arguments and how to cogently construct them. The fourth edition offers a revamped and more tightly focused approach to extended arguments, a new chapter on oral arguments, and updated examples and topics throughout.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the ultimate 'how-to' book for anyone who wants to use reasons and evidence in support of conclusions, to be clear instead of confusing, persuasive instead of dogmatic, and better at evaluating the arguments of others. No one outgrows its forty-five timeless rules, all explained and illustrated with vivid examples. The fourth edition, even more elegantly organized and concise than before, adds new material on oral presentations and Web sources that everyone needs. --Debra Nails, Michigan State University I'm very pleased with the new edition of this book. I've been using A Rulebook for Arguments for several years now in my critical thinking course with great success . . . the chapters on generalizations (formerly arguments by examples), sources (arguments by authority), and arguments about causes have all improved substantially. Thanks for a great new edition! --David Morrow, Hunter College An elegant, concise, and consistently useful little book that every student needs. --Rachel Hadas, Rutgers University

Anthony Weston is Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy at Elon University.

What's impressive is that the author delivers a lot of very good, practical advice, in a logical order, in so few pages. Many text books would take a few hundred pages and be less clear. I'll give you one example: many books discuss the "non sequitur" fallacy and give an example where the "non sequitur" is wildly off point. Weston uses a much more realistic and useful example where the non sequitur is quite subtle because it has lots of facts about the topic -- but does NOT speak to the point it pretends to support. If you want to learn more about this subject -- or ANY subject -- you should read other books, too. But with this book alone, if you refer to it as you write, you, as a student or an adult, can learn to think more clearly and to write more clearly. I ordered a copy for each of my children. It's a book they'll use in middle school, high school and college.

Clear, accurate, logical, interesting, well written, and indispensable. I've read a few other books on logic, and I found some of those books to be poorly written and the thought process of the writers not logical. This one is the best so far.

I just got a copy of the new edition (4th). I have used this previously in teaching college, and needed to upgrade so my students and I have the same edition and page numbers. The content of the book is wonderful, and I think the extra chapter on oral argumentation is a welcome addition. I also think that the price is great. All my Ph.D. students have been happy to have a copy and enjoy working with it. One downside of this particular edition: there are numbers for each argument rule, but the design of these is horrible: they are placed on top of the regular text as a light gray, overlapping the heading and some of the body text. This is distracting and annoying. Not sure who gave this design a green light, but I see this as a problem that I hope is remedied in the next edition (or even the next printing of this edition!). Overall, a great book with one design flaw that shouldn't stop anyone from spending a little for a lot of book.

A Rulebook for Arguments was one of the best instructional books I've read in a while. I will read again as I want to ensure I have a good grasp on what Weston has shared. His concepts were explained in a way that they very helpful in aiding me with my writing.

A great handbook for students in high school or college. It is the "Elements of Style" of manuals on

argument.

Dear friends, "good things come in small packages" and this fills the bill. I am sorely tempted to purchase the related full length text. A great little desk side research argument companion. John Barnes, Bangkok, Thailand

Anyone wanting to sharpen his/her skills, this will definitely do it

A Rulebook for Arguments by Anthony Weston (5 Stars) Great book that breaks down how to properly present arguments. Everyone who desires to think for themselves should read this book, and it should be mandatory reading for all high school students. The only improvement to this book is the list of logical fallacies. Although it mentions most the formal fallacies, it misses some, such as "Provincialism."

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