

Contents

Preface to the Third Edition	xv
Note about Companion Web Site and Twitter Account	xviii

Introduction	xix
---------------------	------------

Part 1

Chapter I: Short Arguments: Some General Rules	3
Rule 1: Resolve premises and conclusion	3
<i>Exercise Set 1.1: Distinguishing premises from conclusions</i>	4
Rule 2: Unfold your ideas in a natural order	8
<i>Exercise Set 1.2: Outlining arguments in premise-and-conclusion form</i>	10
<i>Exercise Set 1.3: Analyzing visual arguments</i>	15
Rule 3: Start from reliable premises	17
<i>Exercise Set 1.4: Identifying reliable and unreliable premises</i>	17
Rule 4: Be concrete and concise	23
<i>Exercise Set 1.5: Decomplexifying artificially abstruse quotations</i>	23
Rule 5: Build on substance, not overtone	26
<i>Exercise Set 1.6: Diagnosing loaded language</i>	27
Rule 6: Use consistent terms	32
Exercise Set 1.7: Evaluating letters to the editor	33

Chapter II: Arguments by Example	40
Rule 7: Use more than one example	41
<i>Exercise Set 2.1: Finding relevant examples</i>	42
Rule 8: Use representative examples	44
<i>Exercise Set 2.2: Improving biased samples</i>	45
Rule 9: Background rates are often crucial	51
<i>Exercise Set 2.3: Identifying relevant background rates</i>	52
Rule 10: Statistics need a critical eye	57
<i>Exercise Set 2.4: Evaluating simple arguments that use numbers</i>	59

Rule 11: Reckon with counterexamples	64
<i>Exercise Set 2.5: Finding counterexamples</i>	66
Exercise Set 2.6: Evaluating arguments for generalizations	69
Exercise Set 2.7: Arguing for and against generalizations	75
 Chapter III: Arguments by Analogy	 78
Rule 12: Analogies require relevantly similar examples	78
<i>Exercise Set 3.1: Identifying important similarities</i>	80
<i>Exercise Set 3.2: Identifying important differences</i>	82
Exercise Set 3.3: Evaluating arguments by analogy	83
Exercise Set 3.4: Constructing arguments by analogy	89
 Chapter IV: Arguments from Authority	 93
Rule 13: Cite your sources	93
Rule 14: Seek informed sources	94
Rule 15: Seek impartial sources	96
<i>Exercise Set 4.1: Identifying biased sources</i>	97
Rule 16: Cross-check sources	100
<i>Exercise Set 4.2: Identifying independent sources</i>	101
Rule 17: Build your Internet savvy	103
Exercise Set 4.3: Evaluating arguments that use sources	105
Exercise Set 4.4: Using sources in arguments	111
 Chapter V: Arguments about Causes	 114
Rule 18: Causal arguments start with correlations	114
Rule 19: Correlations may have alternative explanations	115
<i>Exercise Set 5.1: Brainstorming explanations for correlations</i>	116
Rule 20: Work toward the most likely explanation	120
<i>Exercise Set 5.2: Identifying the most likely explanation</i>	121
Rule 21: Expect complexity	123
Exercise Set 5.3: Evaluating arguments about causes	124
Exercise Set 5.4: Constructing arguments about causes	130
 Chapter VI: Deductive Arguments	 133
Rule 22: <i>Modus ponens</i>	134
Rule 23: <i>Modus tollens</i>	134

Rule 24: Hypothetical syllogism	135
Rule 25: Disjunctive syllogism	136
Rule 26: Dilemma	137
<i>Exercise Set 6.1: Identifying deductive argument forms</i>	138
<i>Exercise Set 6.2: Identifying deductive arguments in more complex passages</i>	143
<i>Exercise Set 6.3: Drawing conclusions with deductive arguments</i>	148
Rule 27: <i>Reductio ad absurdum</i>	151
<i>Exercise Set 6.4: Working with reductio ad absurdum</i>	152
Rule 28: Deductive arguments in multiple steps	158
<i>Exercise Set 6.5: Identifying deductive arguments in several steps</i>	161
Chapter VII: Extended Arguments	167
Rule 29: Explore the issue	167
<i>Exercise Set 7.1: Identifying possible positions</i>	168
<i>Exercise Set 7.2: Exploring issues of your choice</i>	170
Rule 30: Spell out basic ideas as arguments	171
<i>Exercise Set 7.3: Sketching arguments for and against positions</i>	173
<i>Exercise Set 7.4: Sketching arguments about your own topic</i>	175
Rule 31: Defend basic premises with arguments of their own	176
<i>Exercise Set 7.5: Developing arguments in more detail</i>	178
<i>Exercise Set 7.6: Developing your own arguments</i>	182
Rule 32: Reckon with objections	183
<i>Exercise Set 7.7: Working out objections</i>	184
<i>Exercise Set 7.8: Working out objections to your own arguments</i>	186
Rule 33: Explore alternatives	186
<i>Exercise Set 7.9: Brainstorming alternatives</i>	188
<i>Exercise Set 7.10: Considering alternatives to your own conclusions</i>	192
Chapter VIII: Argumentative Essays	194
Rule 34: Jump right in	194
<i>Exercise Set 8.1: Writing good leads</i>	194

Rule 35: Urge a definite claim or proposal	200
<i>Exercise Set 8.2: Making definite claims and proposals</i>	201
Rule 36: Your argument is your outline	203
<i>Exercise Set 8.3: Writing out your arguments</i>	204
Rule 37: Detail objections and meet them	207
<i>Exercise Set 8.4: Detailing and meeting objections</i>	208
<i>Exercise Set 8.5: Considering objections to your own arguments</i>	214
Rule 38: Seek feedback and use it	215
Rule 39: Modesty, please!	216
Chapter IX: Oral Arguments	217
Rule 40: Ask for a hearing	217
<i>Exercise Set 9.1: Reaching out to your audience</i>	218
Rule 41: Be fully present	220
Rule 42: Signpost energetically	221
<i>Exercise Set 9.2: Signposting your own arguments</i>	222
Rule 43: Hew your visuals to your argument	224
Rule 44: End in style	225
<i>Exercise Set 9.3: Ending in style</i>	225
Exercise Set 9.4: Evaluating oral presentations	227
Chapter X: Public Debates	229
Rule 45: Do argument proud	229
Rule 46: Listen, learn, leverage	230
<i>Exercise Set 10.1: Listening even when it hurts</i>	231
<i>Exercise Set 10.2: Preparing for dialogue</i>	238
Rule 47: Offer something positive	240
<i>Exercise Set 10.3: Reframing arguments in a positive way</i>	242
Rule 48: Work from common ground	247
<i>Exercise Set 10.4: Finding common ground</i>	249
Rule 49: At least be civil	258
Rule 50: Leave them thinking when you go	259
<i>Exercise Set 10.5: Posing good questions</i>	261

Appendix I: Some Common Fallacies	264
Exercise Set 11.1: Identifying fallacies (part 1)	270
Exercise Set 11.2: Reinterpreting and revising fallacious arguments (part 1)	276
Exercise Set 11.3: Identifying fallacies (part 2)	280
Exercise Set 11.4: Reinterpreting and revising fallacious arguments (part 2)	285
Exercise Set 11.5: Two deductive fallacies	288
Exercise Set 11.6: Constructing fallacious arguments	292
Appendix II: Definitions	295
Rule D1: When terms are unclear, get specific	295
<i>Exercise Set 12.1: Making definitions more precise</i>	297
Rule D2: When terms are contested, work from the clear cases	301
<i>Exercise Set 12.2: Starting from clear cases</i>	302
Rule D3: Definitions don't replace arguments	305
Appendix III: Argument Mapping	307
Exercise Set 13.1: Mapping simple arguments	312
Exercise Set 13.2: Mapping complex arguments	317

Part 2

Model Responses for Chapter I: Short Arguments	327
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.1</i>	327
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.2</i>	330
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.3</i>	333
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.4</i>	333
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.5</i>	338
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.6</i>	339
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 1.7</i>	341
Model Responses for Chapter II: Arguments by Example	347
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.1</i>	347
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.2</i>	349
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.3</i>	352

<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.4</i>	355
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.5</i>	359
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.6</i>	361
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 2.7</i>	365
Model Responses for Chapter III: Arguments by Analogy	369
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 3.1</i>	369
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 3.2</i>	372
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 3.3</i>	374
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 3.4</i>	380
Model Responses for Chapter IV: Arguments from Authority	382
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 4.1</i>	382
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 4.2</i>	384
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 4.3</i>	386
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 4.4</i>	389
Model Responses for Chapter V: Arguments about Causes	391
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 5.1</i>	391
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 5.2</i>	393
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 5.3</i>	397
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 5.4</i>	401
Model Responses for Chapter VI: Deductive Arguments	404
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 6.1</i>	404
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 6.2</i>	406
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 6.3</i>	408
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 6.4</i>	411
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 6.5</i>	415
Model Responses for Chapter VII: Extended Arguments	418
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 7.1</i>	418
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 7.3</i>	420
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 7.5</i>	424
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 7.7</i>	426
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 7.9</i>	429

Model Responses for Chapter VIII: Argumentative Essays	432
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 8.1</i>	432
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 8.2</i>	434
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 8.4</i>	437
Model Responses for Chapter IX: Oral Arguments	441
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 9.1</i>	441
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 9.3</i>	444
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 9.4</i>	445
Model Responses for Chapter X: Public Debates	446
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 10.1</i>	446
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 10.2</i>	449
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 10.3</i>	454
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 10.4</i>	459
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 10.5</i>	462
Model Responses for Appendix I: Some Common Fallacies	466
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.1</i>	466
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.2</i>	469
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.3</i>	471
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.4</i>	474
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.5</i>	476
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 11.6</i>	478
Model Responses for Appendix II: Definitions	481
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 12.1</i>	481
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 12.2</i>	487
Model Responses for Appendix III: Argument Mapping	490
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 13.1</i>	490
<i>Model responses for Exercise Set 13.2</i>	494

Part 3

Critical Thinking Activities	503
Activities for Chapter I	
<i>Found arguments</i>	503
<i>Creating a visual argument</i>	504
<i>Writing a letter to the editor</i>	505
<i>Analyzing unadapted arguments</i>	506
<i>Reconstructing scientific reasoning</i>	512
<i>Analyzing arguments in scientific reasoning</i>	513
Activities for Chapter II	
<i>Finding misleading statistics</i>	521
<i>Generalizations about your classroom</i>	522
Activities for Chapter III	
<i>Using analogies to understand unusual objects</i>	523
<i>Using analogies in ethical reasoning</i>	524
Activities for Chapter IV	
<i>Recognizing reliable Web sources</i>	525
<i>Finding good sources</i>	526
Activities for Chapter V	
<i>Bluffing about causal explanations</i>	527
Activities for Chapter VI	
<i>Recognizing deductive argument forms</i>	528
Activities for Chapter VII	
<i>Compiling your research into an extended outline</i>	533
Activities for Chapter VIII	
<i>Improving a sample paper</i>	534
<i>Compiling a draft of an argumentative essay</i>	537
<i>Peer-review workshop</i>	538
Activities for Chapter IX	
<i>Writing opening lines</i>	541
<i>Creating a visual aid</i>	542
<i>Oral presentations</i>	543
Activities for Chapter X	
<i>Unpopular opinions</i>	544
<i>In-class debates</i>	545

<i>Extended in-class group debates</i>	547
<i>Best of enemies</i>	549
<i>Constructive debate with outside partners</i>	550
Activities for Appendix I	
<i>Relating rules and fallacies</i>	552
<i>Identifying, reinterpreting, and revising fallacies</i>	554
<i>Critical-thinking public service announcements</i>	555
Activities for Appendix II	
<i>Defining key terms in an essay</i>	556
<i>Defining difficult terms</i>	557
Activities for Appendix III	
<i>Argument mapping workshop</i>	558
<i>Developing your own arguments using argument maps</i>	559
Index	561