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It provides the widest range of tools, allowing students to think critically about their lives and the world around which the comprehensive and engaging introduction to critical analysis provides clear and step-by-step guidelines that provide students with the tools they need to systematically and rationally evaluate arguments, claims and evidence. Completely updated with examples of contemporary culture, politics, and media, this text helps students develop the skills they need to engage meaningfully with the world around them. The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning on Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims, of the fifth edition, explores the essential elements of critical reasoning, discussion, logic and writing of the argumentative essay which also incorporate important arguments that most other texts stop, such asferences for the best explanation , reasoning scientific reasoning, evidence and authority, visual reasoning and obstacles to critical thinking. Features * Hundreds of different exercises, examples and illustrations * Text boxes that apply critical thinking to the student experience * Detailed guidelines for assessing claims, arguments and explanations * a glossary of important terms and many reminders, summaries and reviews Note the power of critical thinking: effective reasoning on Ordinary and extraordinary claims, the sixth edition, offers the widest range of tools to show students how critical thinking applies to their lives and the world around them. It explores the essential elements of critical reasoning, argumentation, logic, and argumentative essay writing, while also incorporating important themes that most other texts leave out, such as “inference to best explanation”, scientific reasoning, evidence and authority, visual reasoning, and obstacles to critical thinking That’s Description The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning on Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims, sixth edition, offers the widest range of tools to show students how critical thinking applies to their lives and the world around them. It explores the essential elements of critical reasoning, argumentation, logic, and argumentative essay writing, while also incorporating important themes that most other texts leave out, such as inference to best explanation, scientific reasoning, evidence and authority, visual reasoning, and obstacles to criticism thought. Price \$ 131.99 Publisher Oxford University Press, USA Published September 20, 2018 Pages 600 Size 9.0 x 0.9 x 9.9 inches | 2.4 lbs Language English Type Paperback EAN/UPC 9 780.190.852 719 millions Lewis Vaughn is author or of several textbooks, including Philosophy Here and Now, Third Edition (2018), Writing Philosophy, Second Edition (2018), Living Philosophy, Second Edition (2017) and Concise Guide to Critical Thought (2017), all published by Oxford University Press. “This is an excellent book on critical thinking! I’ll probably adopt him for future classes. It is well written, engaging, suitable for for And it has a lot of good exercises, including real-world applications. In addition, the cost is much cheaper than competing texts, without compromising the content.” - Ken Hochstetter, College of Southern Nevada” The power of critical thinking is a great textbook. Its strengths are its repetition of key ideas and the many real-world applications, such as the connection between ESP and expectation. This text offers a taste of all areas of human reasoning in an accessible and intelligent way. Fun info boxes will also keep students interested. “- Yang June, Grossmont College” Vaughn’s Wbook is one of the most readable critical thought textbooks. It is written for freshman college students, even those who are not fully prepared for work at the college level. Self-assessment quizzes and integrated exercises are among the best features of this book. “- Tobyn Demarco, Bergen Community College Here are some of our favorite books of view books (4 books) s Page 1 Second Edition of Effective Reasoning on Ordinary and Extraordinary Recents Lewis Vaughn L\ New York Oxford Oxford University Press 2008 Oxford University Press, Inc., publishes papers which further aim at Oxford University’s excellence in research, scholarships and education. Vaughn, Lewis. The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning Ordinary and Extraordinary Requests / Lewis Vaughn.-2nd ed. P.CM. Includes index. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-532 041-J 1. Critical thinking. I. Title. Oxford New York Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto with offices in Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France France Greece Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore South Korea Swit Zerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam Vietnam © 2008 Oxford University Press, MC. Published by Oxford Niversity Press, Inc. 198 Madison Avenue, New York, EW York 10 016 Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press All rights reserved. 0 Part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission from Oxford University Press. Library of Congress Cataioing-In-Publication Data BCI.77. V38 2008 Print Number 16D-DC22: 9 8 7654 32 1 Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper 2 006 048 337 ~ I L \ \ ~ ~ ~ ‘ / \ ~ / / áál. ~~~~~: ~. Áé áé ~.: ~ ~~~. Áé áé. Á ~ ~é ~~~~~.”) ~ ~ ~.: ~~~~~”~j~ ‘ ~ ~ ~! Ckvtp {; e. y 1 The power of critical thinking “CHAPTER OBJECTIVES Áé á ~é Understand the definition of critical thinking and the importance of the terms of definition” systematic “systematic” “evaluation” and “rational standards. “áé é Understand how critical thinking refers to logic, truth or falseness of states, knowledge and personal empowerment. Why it matters - appreciate why critical thinking is better than critical critical thinkingAcceptance of beliefs. I appreciate the relevance of the claim “Unexamined life is not worth living” to critical thinking. á”é Understand why the following statements are doubtful: “Critical thinking makes people too critical or cynical”, critical thinking makes people cold and unemotional “, and” critical thinking is the enemy of creativity “. á”é I appreciate the pervasive use of critical thinking in all human endeavors. How it works á ~é distinguish between affirmations and nonteats. á”é Understand the basic concepts of reasons, arguments, inference, premises and conclusion. á”é Know how to use the words of the indicator to help identify premises and conclusions. á”é Be able to distinguish between passages that do and do not contain a topic. Áé á”é Be able to identify arguments in various contexts and distinguish between armisors and superfluous material, arguments and explanations and premises and conclusions. 3 y Ou Flesh in this world without opinions or judgements or values or views, and now your head is back with them. If you tried to write them all, you’d be busy for the rest of your life (and would probably win an award for being the world’s biggest bore). They help you make your way through the world. They guide you through both failure and success, ignorance and understanding, good and evil, paralysis and empowerment. Some of your beliefs really inform you and a little accessory. Some are true; Some of them aren’t. But the question is, what are they? This kind of question: a question about the quality of your beliefs, is the fundamental concern of critical thinking. Determining the quality or value of your beliefs is a function of thinking, and the kind of thinking that does this work is the best critical thinking, a skill that higher education seeks to promote. This means that critical thinking is not about what you think, but how you think. Also note that the question about the quality of beliefs is not about what factors caused you to have the beliefs that you do. A sociologist could tell you how society has influenced some of your moral choices. A psychologist might downplay how your emotions make you hold on to certain opinions. Your best friend might say that you subconsciously absorbed most of your beliefs directly from your parents. But none of these speculations has much to do with the central task of critical thinking. Critical thinking focuses not on what causes a belief, but on whether it is worth believing. A belief is worth believing or accepting, if we have good reason to access it. The better the reasons for acceptance, the more likely the belief is to be true. Critical thinking gives us a set of standards embedded in techniques, attitudes and principles that we can use evaluate beliefs and determine whether they are supported by good reasons. After all, we want our beliefs to be true, to be good guides to deal with the thinking of the world and critical is the best tool we have to achieve this here is a way to summarize these points in a concise definition: “The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: to settle for one’s own opinions and to settle for one’s knowledge.” -elbert hubbard 4 part 1 basics thinking critical: systematic evaluation or formulation of beliefs, or statements, by rational norms. critical thinking is systematic because it involves distinct procedures and methods. it involves the evaluation and formulation because it is used both to evaluate ex-instant beliefs (your or someone else’s) and to create new ones, and works according to rational criteria, in the sense that convictions are judged according to the degree of support of reasons. critical thinking, of course, involves logic, logic is the study of good reasoning, or inference, and the rules that govern it. chapter 1 the power of critical thinking 5 further harry and lloyd (jim carrey and jeff daniels) from the movie dumb & dumber (1994). Ultimately, what critical thinking brings you is knowledge, understanding, e-if you put them at work-empowerment. Moreover, as your instructor will guide you through this text, you will appreciate some other advantages that cannot be explored completely at the moment: critical thinking allows troubleshooting, active learning and intelligent self-improvement. in chapters 2 and 3 (the rest of part 1) you will have a deeper knowledge of critical thinking and logical argumentation, as well as many opportunities to practice your new skills. consider this chapter as an introduction to these important lessons. The Dumb and dumber many times when we, we do not know something. I who is bad. But when we don’t know we don’t know a bit. I tring, it’s worse. At least, this is the opinion of researchers who have studied the effects of this type of dual-cut ignorance (journal of personality and social psychology, December 1999.) in several studies, researchers have assessed the ability of participants in studies in areas requiring “knowledge, wisdom or wisdom”, logical reasoning, English grammar and humor. the results: the people whose capacities were very weak tended to overestimate them much. those who got the lowest scores thought they got much higher scores. data suggest that overestimations have arisen because subjects have not been able to distinguish accuracy from error. They didn’t know what they didn’t know. irony of fate, when researchers helped participants improve their skills and increase their knowledge, participants could recognize their limitations. Damn. increasing your knowledge and recognizing your limits-is not what critical thinking helps you to do? eyare and well ehave 19ments isnd you. his kind amental es es e ses ex- ates ac- hey are hat fac- ouhow ‘ght de- t friend directly the cent- mg, and t superior Jhat you is worth od rea- broader than investi- fs, or PART 1 BASICS In the 1998 film The Truman Show, Truman is a prisoner in a fictional world where everything he experiences produced by the executives of a television series, of which he is the television star. It is a mere puppy for a hidden television audience - until it begins to think for itself. To a large extent, our lives are defined by our actions and choices, and our actions and choices are guided by our way of thinking - so it is better that our thought is good. Almost every day we are struck by a storm of statements, opinions, arguments and statements from all directions. Everyone begged us to believe, to agree, to accept, to follow, to submit to us. If we care if our choices are right and our true beliefs, if we want to overcome blind acceptance and arbitrary choices, we must use the tools provided by critical thinking. Of course we always have the option to choose the easiest way. We can simulate sadness on any belief or claim jumps into the wind, adopting views because they are favored by others or because they make us feel good. But then we lose control of our lives and let the wind take us where it wants, as if we had no more voice in the chapter of a leaf in a storm. A consequence, therefore, to go with the wind is a loss of personal freedom. If you passively accept the beliefs that have been handed down to you by your parents, your culture or teachers, then those beliefs are not really yours. You happen to be somewhere and at some time when they were delivered. If they are not really yours, and let them lead your choices and actions, then they, not you, are responsible for your life. Your beliefs are yours only if you critically examine them for yourself to see if they are supported by good reasons. Examine your beliefs in this way is equivalent to examining your life, since your beliefs largely define your life. Renouncing to such control means renouncing the possibility of making your life deliberately and authentically meaningful. The great Socrate philosopher says it better: “Unexamined life is not worth living.” Our choice if applying critical thinking skills is not a totally or nothing decision. Each of us uses critical thinking to a certain extent in our lives. We often valueate the reasons for (and against) believing that someone committed a crime, that a serious celebrity is deceived, that a candidate in the elections is better than another, than the laws on control of theThat we should buy a car, that the legendary Bigfoot doesn’t exist, that a friend is trustworthy, that one university is superior to another, that the bill to be considered in Congress would be bad for the environment, that Elvis is living a good life with a Witness Protection Program. But the most urgent consideration is not only Sometimes we use critical thinking, but how well we use it. Many people, however, will have nothing of this, and maybe you are one of them. They believe that critical thinking, or what they take to be a critical thinking - does an excessively critical or cynical, emotionally cold and forced believngly. For example, there are some who see everything that beats from logic and rationality as a negative enterprise designed to attack someone else’s thought and score, putting people in their place. Some of them take the critical word here to mean “FaultFinding” or “Aparting”. Now, no doubt that some people try to use critical thinking mainly for offensive purposes, but this approach goes against the principles of critical thinking. The ~-ntic in a critical thinking is used in the sense of “exercising or engaging a careful judgment or judging assessment”. Critical thinking is about determining what.-And they are justified in believing, and this involves opening up to other new points, a tolerance for opposite perspectives, a focus on the issue at hand, and lessons of arguments and evidence. To paraphrase a slogan of a bumper-sticker: a good critical thought does not make cynical-persons make cynical. Some people fear that if they apply a critical thinking for their lives, they will become cold and not emotional, just like a boat computer with logical and rout functions. But this is a confused notion. Critical thinking and feelings actually reassert each other. Surely part of thought is critically guaranteeing that we do not let our emotions distort our judgments. But critical thinking can also help 115 clarify our feelings and address them more effectively. Our emotions often need the guidance of reason. Similarly, our reasoning needs our emotions. They are our feelings that motivate us to action, and without motivation our reasoning.. I will never get off the ground. Chapter 1 The power of critical thinking 7 “Don’t you be ashamed to take care of yourself so much for the creation of money and for fame and presence, when you don’t think or think of wisdom and truth and the improvement of your soul?” -Socrates Part 1 Basic notions 8 1t; ~; TRITICARTHING QUESTIONS. “~JUR # Inoi1: \ KMG guides our actions, so it should be of high quality. -I’~you.1l.lively has ever critically examined your beliefs, they are not really y’o.1lt \$..: 1’0 Examine your beliefs is to examine Yout life. Socrates: “ Life analyzed is not worth living. “Á á é Cdic thought implies determining what we are justified in believing - fig, open to new perspectives, and evaluating enough the views of others and ourselves. Á é é Critical think Complete both our emotons and ourÁéá ~~Á”Critical thinking is thinking outside the box. ~- ~~~~~ “NEVER, EVER, Rethink.

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