CONTENTS

	Preface to the fifth edition	
•	INTRODUCTION AND PREVIEW	1
1	INTRODUCING ARGUMENTS	3
	BEGINNING TO THINK CRITICALLY: RECOGNISING ARGUMENTS	7
	STANDARD FORM	11
	IDENTIFYING CONCLUSIONS AND PREMISES	13
	ARGUMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS	20
	INTERMEDIATE CONCLUSIONS	22
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	23
	EXERCISES	24
2	LANGUAGE AND RHETORIC	28
	LINGUISTIC PHENOMENA	29
	ASPECTS OF MEANING	44
	RHETORICAL PLOYS	46
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	60
	EXERCISES	61

3	LOGIC: DEDUCTIVE VALIDITY	66
	THE PRINCIPLE OF CHARITY	68
	TRUTH	71
	DEDUCTIVE VALIDITY	73
	PRESCRIPTIVE CLAIMS VS DESCRIPTIVE CLAIMS	78
	CONDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS	79
	THE ANTECEDENT AND CONSEQUENT OF A CONDITIONAL	82
	ARGUMENT TREES	84
	DEDUCTIVE SOUNDNESS	86
	THE CONNECTION TO FORMAL LOGIC I: SENTENTIAL AND QUANTIFICATIONAL LOGIC	88
	THE CONNECTION TO FORMAL LOGIC II: VENN DIAGRAMS	93
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	102
	EXERCISES	103
4	LOGIC: PROBABILITY AND INDUCTIVE REASONING	112
	IMPLICIT QUANTIFIERS: A REMINDER	113
	INDUCTIVE FORCE	114
	INDUCTIVE SOUNDNESS	122
	INDUCTIVE INFERENCES	122
	EVIDENCE	127
	CONVERSION OF INDUCTION TO DEDUCTION	128
	A PROGRAMME FOR ASSESSMENT	133
	THE CONNECTION TO PROBABILITY THEORY	135
	THE CONNECTION TO PROBABILITY THEORY CHAPTER SUMMARY	135 137

5	THE PRACTICE OF ARGUMENT-RECONSTRUCTION	143
	EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL	144
	DEFUSING THE RHETORIC	146
	LOGICAL STREAMLINING	149
	IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT	151
	CONNECTING PREMISES	157
	COVERING GENERALISATIONS	158
	RELEVANCE	161
	AMBIGUITY AND VAGUENESS	163
	MORE ON GENERALISATIONS	169
	PRACTICAL REASONING	172
	BALANCING COSTS, BENEFITS AND PROBABILITIES	173
	EXPLANATIONS AS CONCLUSIONS	176
	CAUSAL GENERALISATIONS	180
	A SHORTCUT	182
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	183
	EXERCISES	184
6	ISSUES IN ARGUMENT-ASSESSMENT	194
	RATIONAL PERSUASIVENESS	195
	SOME STRATEGIES FOR LOGICAL ASSESSMENT	202
	REFUTATION BY COUNTEREXAMPLE	206
	ENGAGING WITH THE ARGUMENT I: AVOIDING THE 'WHO IS TO SAY?' CRITICISM	208
	ENGAGING WITH THE ARGUMENT II: DON'T MERELY LABEL THE POSITION	210
	ARGUMENT COMMENTARY	210
	COMPLETE EXAMPLES	213
	COMMENTARY ON THE COMMENTARIES	229

VII	i •	contents
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	229
	EXERCISES	231
7	DSELIDO DEASONINO	236
1	PSEUDO-REASONING	230
	FALLACIES	236
	FAULTY ARGUMENT TECHNIQUES	264
	TOO MUCH MATHS!	273
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	276
	EXERCISES	278
8	TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF	282
	TRUTH AND RELATIVITY	283
	TRUE FOR ME, TRUE FOR YOU	288
	TRUTH, VALUE AND MORALITY	291
	POST-TRUTH, ALT-FACTS, FAKE NEWS	292
	THEORIES	293
	BELIEF, JUSTIFICATION AND TRUTH	294
	JUSTIFICATION WITHOUT ARGUMENTS	297
	KNOWLEDGE	297
	JUSTIFICATION FAILURE	298
	KNOWLEDGE AND RATIONAL PERSUASIVENESS	300
	PHILOSOPHICAL DIRECTIONS	302
	CHAPTER SUMMARY	305
	EXERCISES	305
	Glossary	309
	Answers and hints to selected exercises	319
	Index	335