

Contents

Preface	page xi
Acknowledgments	xv
1 Argument as reasoned dialogue	1
1.1 Types of argumentative dialogue	3
1.2 Components of argumentative dialogue	8
1.3 Persuasion dialogue (critical discussion)	10
1.4 Negative rules of persuasion dialogue	15
1.5 Some major informal fallacies	18
1.6 The straw man fallacy	22
1.7 Argument from consequences	24
1.8 The critical perspective	34
2 Questions and answers in dialogue	38
2.1 Presuppositions of questions	39
2.2 Complex questions	42
2.3 Have you stopped abusing your spouse?	46
2.4 Disjunctive questions	50
2.5 Arguments from ignorance	56
2.6 Replying to a question with a question	61
2.7 Begging the question	64
2.8 Questions in polls	67
2.9 Advocacy and push polling	71
2.10 Question-answer rules in dialogue	73
3 Criticisms of irrelevance	78
3.1 Allegations of irrelevance	79
3.2 Global irrelevance	82
3.3 Question-answer relevance	85
3.4 Setting an agenda for a discussion	88
3.5 Red herring versus wrong conclusion	92
3.6 Varieties of criticisms of irrelevance	99
3.7 Summary	102
4 Appeals to emotion	106
4.1 Argumentum <i>ad populum</i>	107

4.2	The argument from popularity	111
4.3	Problems with appeals to popularity	114
4.4	Threatening appeals to force	117
4.5	Further <i>ad baculum</i> problems	124
4.6	Appeals to pity	128
4.7	Overt, pictorial appeals to pity	130
4.8	Summary	133
5	Valid arguments	136
5.1	Deductive validity	137
5.2	Identifying arguments	138
5.3	Validity as a semantic concept	142
5.4	Valid forms of argument	144
5.5	Invalid arguments	149
5.6	Inconsistency	152
5.7	Composition and division	156
5.8	Defeasible reasoning	159
5.9	Jumping to a conclusion	162
5.10	Summary	166
6	Personal attack in argumentation	170
6.1	The abusive <i>ad hominem</i> argument	171
6.2	The <i>circumstantial ad hominem</i> argument	177
6.3	The attack on an arguer's impartiality	185
6.4	Non-fallacious <i>ad hominem</i> arguments	190
6.5	Replying to a personal attack	194
6.6	Critical questions for an <i>ad hominem</i> argument	198
6.7	Important types of error to check	201
6.8	Some cases for further discussion	203
7	Appeals to authority	209
7.1	Reasonable appeals to authority	211
7.2	Argumentation scheme for appeal to expert opinion	215
7.3	Critical questions for the appeal to expert opinion	217
7.4	Three common errors in citing expert opinions	223
7.5	Evaluating appeals to expert opinion in written sources	225
7.6	Expert testimony in legal argumentation	229
7.7	How expert is the authority?	232
7.8	Interpreting what the expert said	237
7.9	A balanced view of argument from expert opinion	241

8	Inductive errors, bias, and fallacies	246
8.1	Meaningless and unknowable statistics	247
8.2	Sampling procedures	251
8.3	Insufficient and biased statistics	254
8.4	Questionable questions and definitions	256
8.5	The <i>post hoc</i> argument	259
8.6	Six kinds of <i>post hoc</i> errors	263
8.7	Bias due to defining variables	270
8.8	<i>Post hoc</i> criticisms as raising critical questions in an inquiry	272
8.9	Strengthening causal arguments by answering critical questions	275
8.10	Examples of drawing causal conclusions from scientific studies	279
8.11	Summary	285
9	Natural language argumentation	289
9.1	Ambiguity and vagueness	290
9.2	Loaded terms and question-begging language	294
9.3	Equivocation and amphiboly	300
9.4	Arguments based on analogy	305
9.5	Argumentative use of analogy	308
9.6	Criticizing arguments from analogy	312
9.7	Slippery slope arguments	315
9.8	Subtle equivocations	321
9.9	Variability of strictness of standards	325
9.10	Conclusions	328
	Bibliography	333
	Index	339