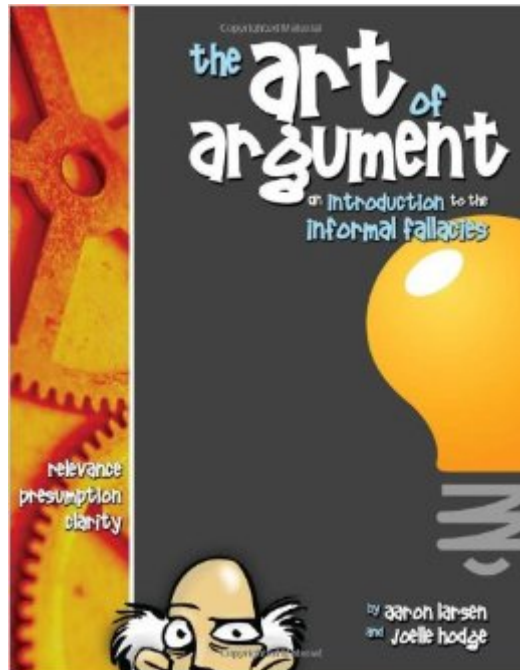


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# The Art Of Argument



## Synopsis

Junior high aged students will argue (and sometimes quarrel), but they won't argue well without good training. Young teens are also targeted by advertisers with a vengeance. From billboards to commercials to a walk down the mall, fallacious arguments are everywhere you look. The Art of Argument was designed to teach the argumentative adolescent how to reason with clarity, relevance and purpose at a time when he has a penchant for the why and how. It is designed to equip and sharpen young minds as they live, play, and grow in this highly commercial culture. This course teaches students to recognize and identify twenty-eight informal fallacies, and the eye-catching text includes over sixty slick and clever, "phony advertisements" for items from blue jeans to pick-up trucks, which apply the fallacies to a myriad of real life situations. Classical Academic Press Educators will find all curricula by Classical Academic Press to be created with four important attributes. Each product is classical, creative, relevant, and easy to use. As our company name implies, you will find that we publish classical books and media, seeking to acquaint students with the best that has been thought and said. We also design and present our products with creativity and zest, from beautiful illustrations to engaging storytelling, ensuring that the classical subjects being taught are anything but boring. Areas we publish in include: -Latin -Ancient Greek -Logic -Bible, Old & New Testament -The Art Of Poetry -Spanish -Classical Education Resources

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Prior to homeschooling, I had never heard of logic being any sort of educational course. I heard it

used to refer to right thinking, or more specifically, common sense. Now I know that it is so much more than that and I am a firm believer that it is an integral part of a proper education. Logic equips students to reason and discern, to recognize false statements regardless of the power of persuasion. That old fashioned definition of "right thinking" isn't so far off, though it is more a matter of learning to "think rightly". The main emphasis in Art of Argument is recognition of informal fallacies, which your student will quickly realize are everywhere. It is encouraging to see them turn from a commercial or a billboard with shock on their faces as they realize that an advertiser was attempting to manipulate a response from them. It's as if I gave them a secret decoder ring for the many messages that bombard them. Art of Argument contains 6 chapters that cover 28 fallacies. With these, a very necessary introduction, and cumulative reviews, there are approximately 36 lessons. These can be done gently as weekly lessons for one year, or as twice weekly lessons (still quite comfortably) for a one-semester course. Either method could be followed with The Discover of Deduction, which introduces formal logic. The Art of Argument is written for middle school students in 7th and 8th grade, though it was still very insightful for my 9th grade son and myself. It is written directly to the student in an appealing conversational style. The class requires a student book and a teacher's book. A DVD is also available as a supplement. This DVD includes logic teachers in discussion with students and providing real life applications for the material.

(This review refers to the updated edition, Version 7.0) Classical Academic Press, rising star in the classical education market, distinguishes itself from other publishers with its smart layout and playful approach to challenging subject matter. The first book in CAP's logic series, The Art of Argument: an introduction to the informal fallacies, incorporates the press' signature wit through the authors' explanations, samples, and selections. For instance, in Lesson 5.4: Irrelevant Thesis, the author cites: "A good example [of a red herring argument] is how President Reagan deftly defused the 'age' issue in his election race against Mondale by saying he wasn't going to make an issue of his opponent's youth and inexperience." Yet critical thinking is not presented as merely fun and games. The authors' Christian worldview shines through in the next paragraph, when another example demonstrates how the Red Herring fallacy is used to accuse Christians who oppose abortion. The student workbook--illustrated with more than 60 fictitious (and often ridiculously silly) ads--aims to teach junior high and high school students 28 informal fallacies. As with Latin for Children, another popular CAP title, a quick reference of essential facts is printed inside the front and back covers. Further study helps may be found in a glossary located within the student text. The teacher's materials (sold separately) provide an answer key to the student text, as well as quiz and test

masters and keys. [...]In a co-op setting or elsewhere, students can entice others toward critical thinking by performing the short skit titled, "Bill and Ted's Excellent Election."

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