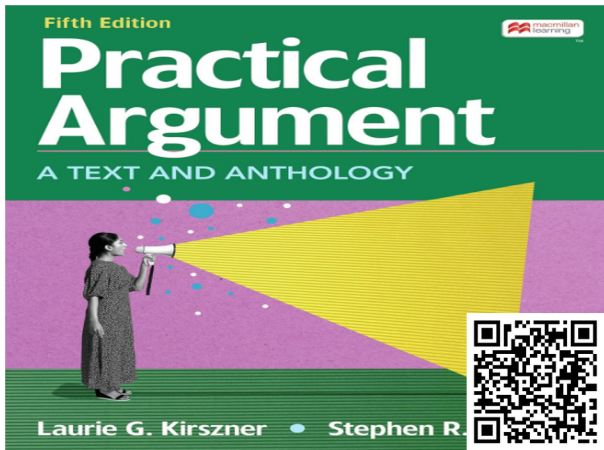


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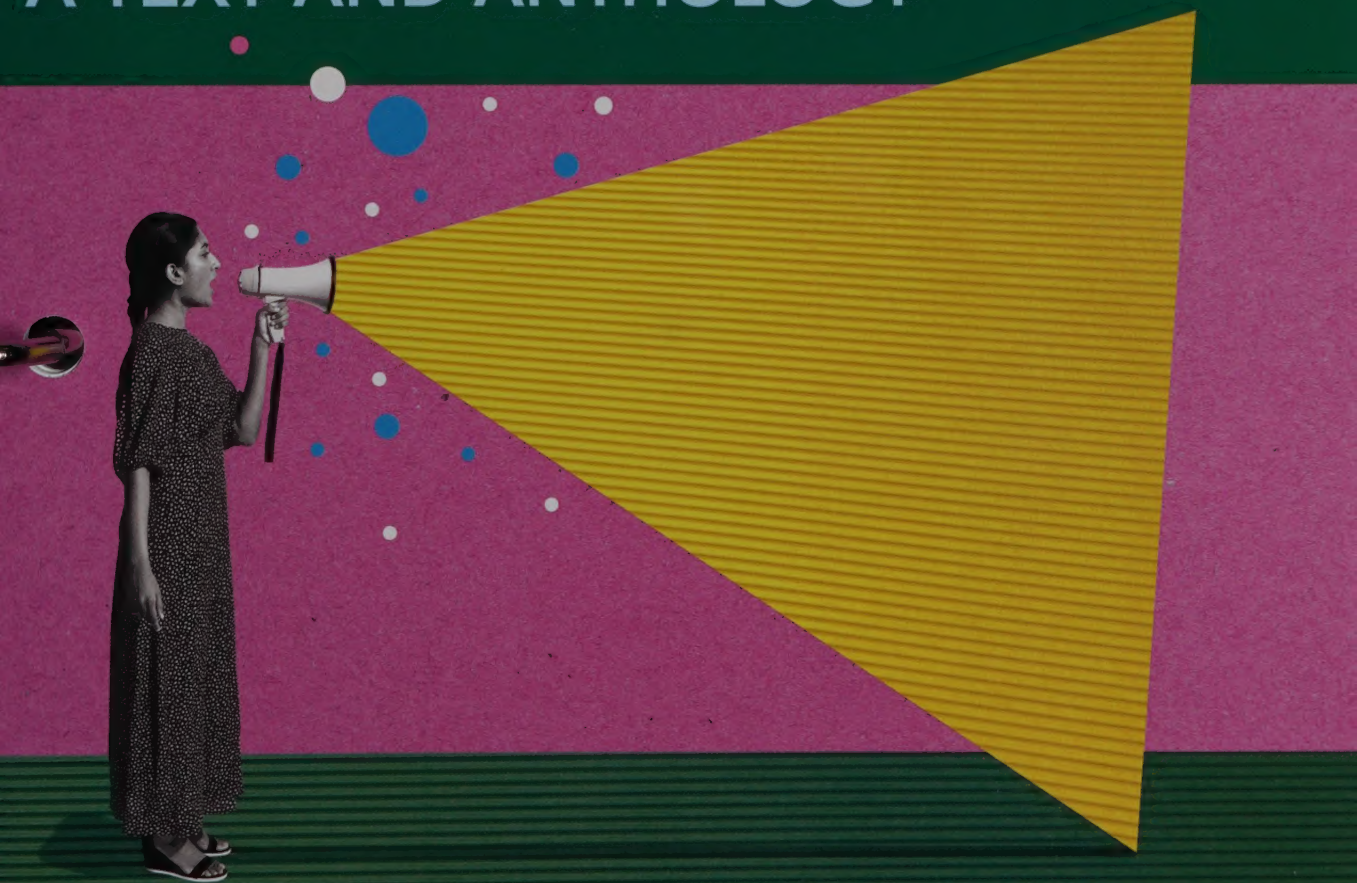
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Practical Argument

A TEXT AND ANTHOLOGY



Laurie G. Kirszner • Stephen R. Mandell

These helpful checklists and grammar tips will guide you through the process of writing an argumentative essay.

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A note about the cover The image on the cover connects to the argument topic "How free should free speech be?" in Chapter 5. The triangle represents the *rhetorical triangle* discussed in this book's introduction.

Third Edition

Practical Argument

A Text and Anthology

Laura G. Krasner
University of the Pacific, Stockton

Stephen R. Mandel
Grand Canyon University

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Edited by
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and
John G. Gatt

Practical Argument: A Text and Anthology

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Fifth Edition

Practical Argument

A Text and Anthology

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Many college composition programs integrate argumentation into their first-year writing sequence, and there are good reasons for this. Argumentation is central to both academic and public discourse, so students who are skilled at argumentation are able to participate in the dynamic, ongoing discussions that take place in their classrooms and in their communities. Argumentation teaches the critical-thinking skills that are valuable in an often contentious, sometimes divided sociopolitical landscape — and particularly necessary for academic success.

What has surprised and troubled us as teachers, however, is that many college argument texts are simply too difficult, with excessively technical terminology and unnecessarily abstract discussions. We want students to feel that they are part of a discourse community within which they can use the principles of argumentation with confidence and skill. With this in mind, we drew on our years of classroom experience to create *Practical Argument: A Text and Anthology*. In this fifth edition, *Practical Argument* remains a straightforward and accessible introduction to argumentative writing that explains concepts in understandable language and illustrates them with examples that actually mean something to students, covering contemporary issues that affect their lives as well as the kinds of visual arguments they see every day. *Practical Argument* is an ideal alternative for instructors who see currently available argument texts as too big, too complicated, and too intimidating for their students.

In short, our goal in this text is to demystify the study of argument. To this end, we focus on the things that students actually need to know. *Practical Argument* works because its approach is *practical*: It helps students make connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they experience outside of it. As they do so, they become comfortable with the rhetorical skills that are central to effective argumentation. We (and our many readers) believe that there's no other book like it.

Organization

Practical Argument, both a text and an anthology of readings, includes everything students and instructors need for an argument course in a single book.

- **Part 1, Understanding Argument**, discusses the role of argument in everyday life and the value of studying argument, offers definitions of what argument is and is not, explains the means of persuasion (appeals to *logos*, *pathos*, and *ethos*), and defines and illustrates the basic elements of argument (thesis, evidence, refutation, and concluding statement).
- **Part 2, Reading and Responding to Arguments**, explains and illustrates critical thinking and reading; visual argument; writing a rhetorical analysis; logic and logical fallacies; and Rogerian argument, Toulmin logic, and oral arguments.
- **Part 3, Writing an Argumentative Essay**, traces and illustrates the process of planning, drafting, and revising an argumentative essay.
- **Part 4, Using Sources to Support Your Argument**, covers locating and evaluating print and online sources; summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, and synthesizing sources; documenting sources in MLA style (updated in accordance with the *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed.); and using sources responsibly.
- **Part 5, Strategies for Argument**, explains and illustrates the most common kinds of arguments — definition arguments, cause-and-effect arguments, evaluation arguments, ethical arguments, and proposal arguments.
- **Part 6, Debates, Casebooks, and Classic Arguments**, includes both contemporary and classic arguments. The contemporary arguments are arranged in four pro-con debates and four in-depth casebooks on issues such as how to solve the opioid problem and whether the United States should have open borders. The classic arguments include well-known pieces by writers such as Jonathan Swift, Frederick Douglass, and Rachel Carson.
- **Appendixes**. Appendix A shows how argumentative strategies can be combined in a single essay, Appendix B provides instruction on writing literary arguments, and Appendix C covers APA documentation style.

Key Features

Accessible in a Thoughtful Way

Practical Argument covers everything students need to know about argument but doesn't overwhelm them. It limits technical vocabulary to what students and instructors actually need to understand and discuss key concepts in argument and argumentative writing. In essence, *Practical Argument* is argument made accessible.

Argument Step by Step, Supported by Helpful Apparatus

Practical Argument takes students through a step-by-step process of reading and responding to others' arguments and writing, revising, and editing their own arguments. The book uses a classroom-tested, exercise-driven approach that encourages students to participate actively in their own learning process. Chapters progress in a clear, easy-to-understand sequence: students are asked to read arguments, identify their key elements, and develop a response to an issue in the form of a complete, documented argumentative essay based on in-book focused research.

Exercises and writing assignments in each chapter provide guidance for students as they work toward creating a finished piece of writing. Throughout the text, checklists, grammar-in-context and summary boxes, and source and gloss notes provide support. In addition, unique templates for paragraph-length arguments — located with the end-of-chapter exercises — provide structures that students can use for guidance as they write rhetorical analyses, deductive and inductive arguments, Rogerian and Toulmin arguments, and more. Templates can also be assigned in Achieve, where students can submit their written responses.

A Thematically Focused Approach with Compelling Chapter Topics

Students learn best when they care about and are engaged in an issue. For this reason, *Practical Argument* uses readings and assignments to help students learn argumentation in the context of one high-interest contemporary issue per chapter. These “At Issue” topics pose questions such as “Is a college education worth the money?,” “Does recycling really accomplish anything?,” “Does it make sense to shop ethically?,” and “How free should free speech be?” — issues that have real meaning in students' lives. Additional readings, examples, and student essays in each chapter focus on other topics to give students a variety of issues to read and write about.

Readings on Relevant and Interesting Issues

Practical Argument, Fifth Edition, includes over 100 accessible and thought-provoking professional readings as well as 20 visual arguments on high-interest issues that students will want to read about and debate. Eighteen sample student essays, more than in any other argument book, provide realistic models. Each student essay, including complete MLA and APA research papers, is annotated to further assist students through their own writing process. The mixture of professional and student essays, visual pieces, debates, and casebooks cover high-interest issues like environmental solutions, technology and privacy, student debt, “fake news” and misinformation, immigration, and more. A collection of nine classic arguments offers more challenging approaches to enduring issues.

Visual Arguments

Chapter 3 focuses on reading and responding critically to visual arguments with examples including advertisements, infographics, and graphs. Every chapter in Part 5, as well as each casebook, includes a visual argument, accompanied by questions designed to focus students' attention on how to "read" a visual and understand its persuasive elements. Additional images throughout the book, including photos, advertisements, public-service announcements, cartoons, and more, add an extra dimension and additional perspective to the process of analyzing arguments.

An Open and Inviting Full-Color Design

The fresh, contemporary look of *Practical Argument* reinforces the currency of the book's themes and also creates an inviting and visually stimulating format that will engage students. This open, colorful design contrasts with the sea of dense type that is typical of many other argument books. Numerous photographs and other visuals — such as advertisements, cartoons, charts and graphs, infographics, and web pages — provide appealing and instructive real-world examples.

To help students better understand the context of the variety of sources included in *Practical Argument*, each is marked with an icon that shows how it was originally presented.

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New to This Edition

Essays, Topics, and Images

More than 50 percent of the readings throughout the text are new to the fifth edition, including 51 engaging new essays and 12 new visual arguments. We have updated the collections of readings on popular “At Issue” topics such as the value of a college education, free speech, and diversity in STEM fields and added new model essays on such timely topics as personal pronouns. In Part 5, we have introduced two new and thought-provoking “At Issue” topics — “How serious a problem is climate change?” and “Do Confederate monuments belong in public spaces?” — in addition to updating the readings on social media, student debt, and fake news. These essays have been carefully selected for their high-interest subject matter as well as for their effectiveness as sources and as teaching models for student writing.

Debates and Casebooks

We have added two new debates and one new casebook to provide students with a variety of viewpoints on some of today's most compelling issues: "Do students really need trigger warnings?" (debate), "Should we stop eating meat?" (debate), and "Should all voters be required to present identification?" (casebook). In addition, we have included new, up-to-date readings in the most popular casebooks retained from the previous edition: "How should we solve the opioid problem?," "Should the United States have open borders?," and "Does it pay to study the humanities?"

New Coverage

Practical Argument continues to cover essential topics in argumentation and continues to provide practical guidance on topics with which students tend to struggle. In this edition, to help students develop stronger thesis statements, we have expanded our discussion of claims in Chapter 7, "Planning, Drafting, and Revising an Argumentative Essay," with more detailed information on types of claims, including claims of fact, claims of value, and claims of policy. To assist students in choosing an argumentative strategy, we have also revised our explanation of stasis theory and incorporated it in Chapter 7, where it is discussed as a strategy for deciding how to structure an argument. We demonstrate how essays can use multiple strategies in the new Appendix A, Combining Argumentative Strategies.

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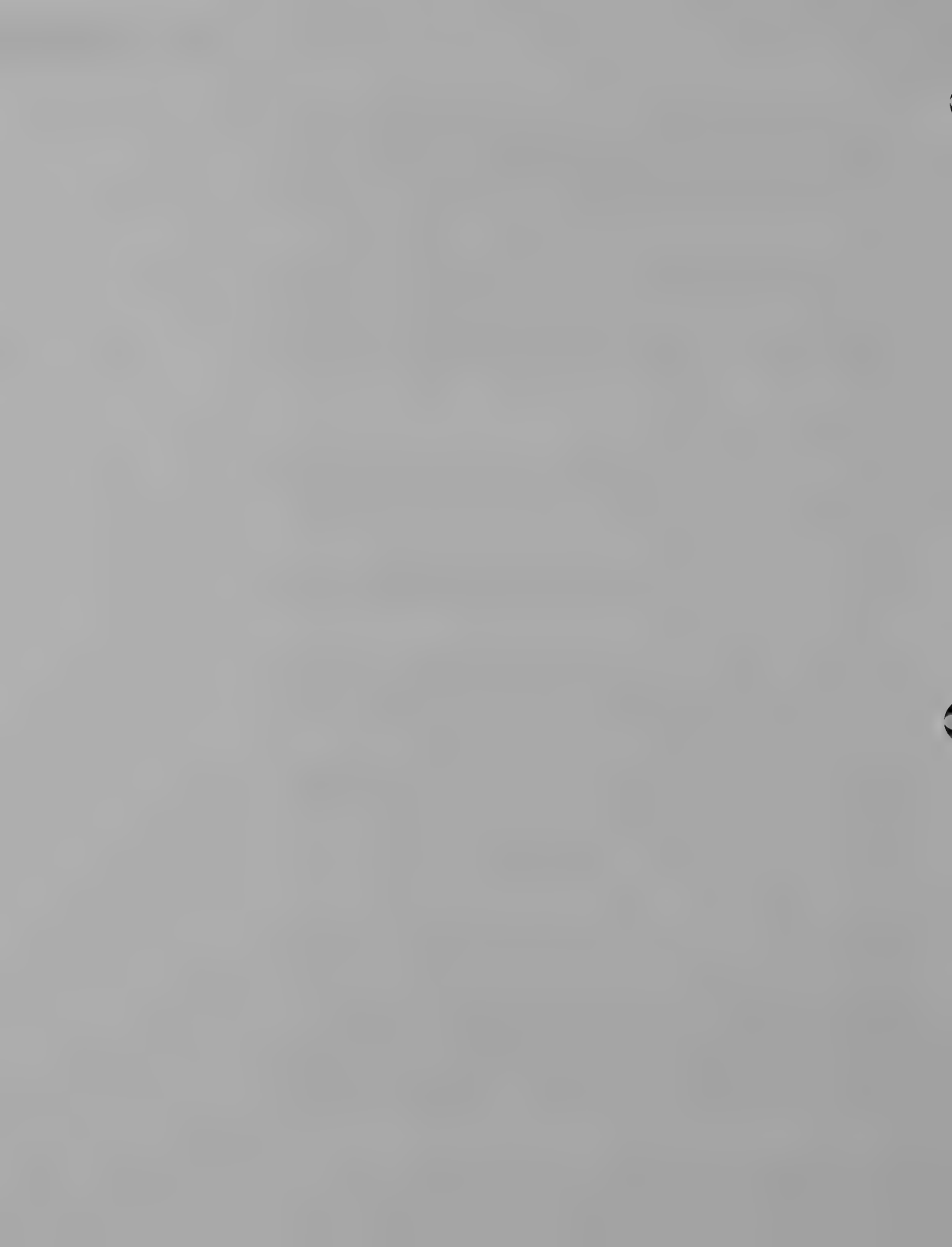
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