

How to Argue and Win!



Here is a clear simply written basic guide to logical thinking, showing how to spot the fallacies, the prejudices and emotionalism, the inappropriate analogies, etc., in the other fellow's argument and how to watch for and avoid the irrational in your own judgments. The author makes plain not only *how* but also *why* people resist facing the truth.

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films OF THE WEEK

ADAPTATIONS FOR SURVIVAL: BIRDS. 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Structural and behavioral adaptations of birds to their environments are illustrated. Structural adaptations include the long bills and still-like legs of the avocets, the webbed feet of the western grebe, and the camouflaging plumage of the ptarmigan. Behavioral adaptations include the phalarope's spinning in water to sup up food and the killdeer's pretense of injury to lead a potential enemy away from the nest. The diverse scenes and accompanying narration show how these adaptations enable the birds to get sufficient food, defend themselves and reproduce enough offspring to continue the species. Audience: grades 4-8. Purchase \$165 or rental \$7.50 from International Film Bureau, Dept. SN, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

FREEDOM TO THINK. 16mm, b&w, sound, 20 min. Part of five-film series on Nuffield Mathematics Teaching Project in England. Film shows how it is important for children to be put in a variety of learning situations and to tackle problems by a variety of methods. The class lesson, group work, a center of interest, discussion, assignment cards, and individual work all have their place. One of the most vital of these, especially after individual or group work, is discussion. It serves to bring out the merit or demerit of the various methods, and enables the teacher to evaluate how much of the work a child fully understands. Both class and individual discussion should be encouraged, and whatever method is adopted, the teacher should give the children the stimulus and the freedom to think. Audience: teachers, parents. Purchase \$250 or rental \$30 from Time-Life Films, Dept. SN, 43 W. 16th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

CHANGING THE WEATHER. 16mm, color, sound, 29 min. A review of research which is being conducted to study clouds and air currents and the ways these affect local weather conditions. Several studies are depicted including investigations of the composition of clouds, the effect of different temperatures upon air currents, the composition of particulate matter in the atmosphere, the ways in which this particulate matter triggers rain or snow formations, how water droplets or ice crystals grow and methods of seeding clouds in order to produce rain or snow. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$240 or rental \$10 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

TOMORROW . . . TODAY. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. How can man overcome his future problems before they, in fact, arise? One answer to this question is "trial and error" or simulation. As we view this film, we learn how scientists are using this technique today to anticipate and solve problems they may encounter as they strive to meet tomorrow's goals. In some cases, simulation refers to a reproduction of physical conditions designed to provide a training or testing situation but eliminating the actual hazards. In other cases, it means "juggling" of alternatives to expedite planning and eliminate fruitless approaches to the solution of a given problem. We watch an imaginary "war" game played with computers . . . a simulator designed for landing a supersonic transport . . . and a simulated maneuvering and landing of a Lunar Module. Audience: general. Purchase \$300 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. SN, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

to the editor

Adding up pornography

As your summary "Once more, into the fray" of the report by the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography states loudly and clearly both in and between the lines (SN: 10/3, p. 284), 10 volumes of data collected over two years does not necessarily add up to anything. Dr. Wilson's quoted comment ". . . we really don't understand the psychological mechanisms involved in consuming these materials," is the last nail in an unnecessary coffin. The corpse is more alive than he seems to think.

"Goal-directed behavioral research" reasonably should be expected to state the assumptions at the organismic level, thus providing a basic structure permitting scientific investigation. How about something like the following?

A functioning organism learns, or, if preferred, is available to conditioning, from external and internal stimuli. Pathological responses are "learned" or "conditioned" like any other. Designations of "healthy" or "pathological" behavior are value judgments, and should be assessed on the basis of stated criteria, such as medical or clinical, social or legal, or whatever.

And so on.

If nobody learns anything from anything, why worry? If we do learn something from something, then selectivity with respect to stimuli becomes a problem, do it not? Especially for the immature, the unstable and the unformed victim.

*Virginia Johnson, Ed.D.
 Clinical Psychologist
 Los Angeles, Calif.*

I enjoyed reading the article on the pornography report and thought your analysis of the problems in this kind of research quite appropriate.

I think it important to point out, however, that the two works cited quite different populations and probably quite different time spans as well. Thus, they produce quite different perspectives on different aspects of the problem and are not necessarily mutually contradictory.

*Clifford B. Reifler, M.D.
 University of Rochester
 Rochester, N.Y.*

Perspicacious

I have read your article on "Clues from a chemical" (SN: 10/3, p. 287) with great interest. I think you show great perspicacity in noticing the importance of this area.

*Irvine H. Page, M.D.
 Cleveland Clinic
 Cleveland, Ohio*