BOOK REVIEW

A Rule Book for Arguments, 5th edition
Anthony Weston
Hackett Publishing

Reviewed by
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The title should be read in an academic context i.e. not everyday squabble.
The book is a slim at just 102 pages and is meant for use as a desk reference to assist
students and faculty to check the logic developed or presented to them in a thesis or
dissertation. The book comprises ten sections divided into 50 chapters as follows:

Introduction
Part I Short arguments Some General Rules.
Comprises six chapters
Part II Arguments by Example.
Comprises five chapters.
Part III Arguments by Analogy.
Comprises one chapter.
Part IV Arguments From Authority
Comprises five chapters.
Part V Arguments About Causes.
Comprises four chapters.
Part VI Part VI Deductive Arguments.
Comprises seven chapters.
Part VII Extended Arguments.
Comprises five chapters.
Part VIII Argumentative Essays.
Comprises six chapters.
Part IX Oral Arguments.
Comprises five chapters.
Part X Public Debates.
Comprises six chapters.
Appendix I Some Common Fallacies.
Appendix II Definitions comprises three sections D1 to D3.
Resources.

Conclusion This book is highly recommended to faculty for checking the validity of
the types of arguments presented and for students developing such arguments as part
of their research questions, hypotheses as part of their literature review and their
conclusions. A distinct advantage of this text is that wording is both precise and
concise. Careful initial reading chapter by chapter is suggested, and the book should
be kept as a desk reference within easy reach for referral. The author of this book has
written a comprehensive Workbook which provides additional examples to those
provided in the Rulebook for those who might need a more comprehensive resource.