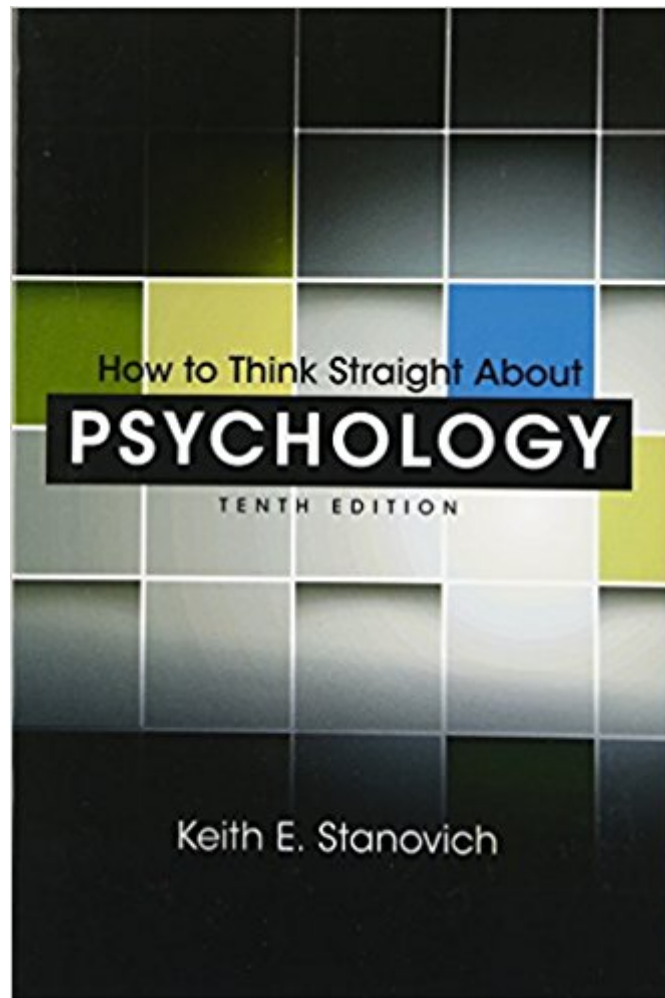




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How To Think Straight About Psychology (10th Edition)



Synopsis

Teaching students to become better consumers of psychological research. ã ã Keith Stanovich's widely used and highly acclaimed book presents a short introduction to the critical thinking skills that will help students to better understand the subject matter of psychology. How to Think Straight about Psychology, 10e helps students recognize pseudoscience and be able to distinguish it from true psychological research, aiding students to become more discriminating consumers of psychological information. ã ã Learning Goals Upon completing this book, readers should be able to: Evaluate psychological claims they encounter in the general media. Distinguish between pseudoscience and true psychological research. Apply psychological knowledge to better understand events in the world around them. ã ã

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Keith E. Stanovich is currently Emeritus Professor of Human Development and Applied Psychology at the University of Toronto. He is the author of over 175 scientific articles and seven books.ã ã Stanovich is the 2012 recipient of the E. L. Thorndike Career Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association and the recipient of the 2010 Grawemeyer Award in Education. In 2000 he received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading. Stanovich is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Divisions 3, 7, 8, and 15) and the Association for Psychological Science.

I KNOW this is often used as a textbook in undergrad and even grad courses. That's fine, but I'd like

to suggest that this a good read for anybody interested in critical thinking and psychology. I'm a psych professor. I've been teaching and doing scientific psychology for years. I teach research design and methods, and critical thinking, among other things. But I bought this book for myself, and I'm glad I did. I kept running into friends' and acquaintances' misconceptions about psychology, as well as some aggressively uncritical thinking. That was especially true in some of the "integrative" worlds I've been drawn to (e.g., yoga, "mindfulness," meditation, "personal growth," post-modernist "thinking"), and some of the people who inhabit them. And then there was the ever-present notion that human behavior and mental phenomena could be adequately understood through unaided common sense or reference to the non-empirical pseudosciences. Having heard enough uncritical and magical stuff, I bought this book as a sort of mental defense... This book is well worth it. It begins by noting "the Freud problem"

The concepts in this book should be required understanding in all introductory science classes. The book explains how to think scientifically, so they don't develop false beliefs about the natural world and behavior. In today's world, our science classes teach students facts about the world but don't give them the tools to figure out what to believe and what not to outside the classroom. How do we recognize pseudoscientific claims? Clinical Psychologist Scott Lilienfeld (2005, p. 40) lists:

- * The claim is unfalsifiable. There are no control standards and every outcome can be explained after the fact.
- * An emphasis on confirmation rather than refutation
- * Place the burden of proof on the buyer rather than the maker of the claim
- * Excessive reliance on anecdotal and testimonial evidence to substantiate claims
- * Evasion of scientific peer review
- * Failure to build on existing scientific knowledge (lack of connectivity)

The book tackles all these issues, as well as chance, multiple causation, probabilistic reasoning, artificial settings for experimentation, and correlation and causation. Stanovich develops the book extremely well, with hundreds of references and powerful statistics as he tackles some of the most prominent pseudoscience of our day. He gives countless examples, including facilitated communication (where an aide supposedly could help autistic children communicate and became such a fad in the 90's that many parents went to jail on the sexual abuse charges that "came out"), infomercials with celebrity endorsements but no scientific success, miracle pills, esp, and much of popular "psychology". This book gives you the tools to understand scientific claims. It's extremely powerful and only 200 pages. When you understand the tools to evaluate if something sounds too good to be true, you'll become a much more informed citizen.

I found this to be a very interesting book. It is worth noting that it is very short, though. The whole thing took me two days to read which is quite fast for a class textbook. I did not learn a lot of applicable knowledge for my class but the greatest value of this textbook was honestly entertainment. The anecdotes and study examples are interesting and well placed to illustrate the authors' points. If this is listed as an optional book for a class, I would not expect to use it a lot. However, it is great as a quick read into the recent happenings of psychology.

A wonderful angle on the inner workings of the psychological sciences. This text is simple, clear, and to the point. And while this is not a "textbook," it certainly covers the broad range of psychology and gives great insight into the research behind the field.

I ended up returning it because my sister had it for me, but it came in great condition and was an excellent price!

Item received as promised by seller. Great, practical, efficient transaction; I will buy/rent again, Thank you...

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