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Book Information
Series: THINK
Paperback: 336 pages
Publisher: Pearson; 2 edition (March 8, 2012)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0205182615
Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.9 x 10.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (22 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #132,119 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #230 in Books > Politics & Social
Customer Reviews

I have had a lot of textbooks over the past few years, psych and otherwise, and I am currently using this one for a PSYC 482 class. The content is decent and thought provoking, although many of the flashy graphics (charts, etc) are essentially useless and often so over-simplified as to be just a waste of space. One gets the feeling they may have been added specifically for that reason, actually. In many cases the graphics and charts do not provide meaningful information. An example is the 'Breakdowns in the Family: Solutions' chart on page 50. Whomever created this chart put zero thought into the relevance/usefulness of the information in it. The solutions it presents are not only not related to anything in the text, but they are largely unworkable nonsense as one cannot travel through time to change things that occurred during childhood. An example from the chart on page 50 follows: Problem: Father finds it hard to talk about the daughter's problems. Daughter is uncomfortable opening up to him. Solution: The father should make an effort to build trust by talking to the daughter while she is young. How is this a workable solution for a problem when the client is no longer a young child? What if they are an angry teenager? Not only is this "solution" impossible to implement, this extremely general statement is unhelpful and serves to merely frustrate the reader. Did you learn anything from it? Neither did I. Similar solutions are present throughout the graphic. Waste of space in the textbook--and it is not the only one. The format itself, that of a large magazine (about 1/3" thick), is annoying, floppy, hard to read, and feels like nothing more than a way of making a textbook cheaper to produce while still charging an arm and a leg for it.

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