

Chapter 02 Two Kinds of Reasoning

Short Answer Questions

1. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

Bamboo can grow up to four feet a day, but only after it is well established. This can take from three to five years, depending on the type of bamboo.

No argument.

2. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

The Burnhams have invited the performers home for a reception following the recital. But it would be wise to let them know if you plan to attend, because space is limited.

Argument; conclusion: "it would be wise to let them know if you plan to attend."

3. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

Feldspar works at a restaurant at night and teaches during the day. I'd have to bet he's tired most of the time, and that's a good reason for thinking he won't do well in school this term.

Two arguments present; conclusions: "he's tired most of the time," and "he won't do well in school this term"; "he won't do well . . ." is the conclusion of the principal argument.

4. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

The market for Jackson Pollock paintings has collapsed virtually overnight. Reason: A lot of them were bought during the 1980s, and 1990s. Investors figure that 1980s prices were too high.

No argument.

5. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

It is a very nice clock, but as you can see, it doesn't really go very well on that wall. For one thing, it's too large for the space. For another, it's red, and the wall is green. The best thing you could do with it, I'm afraid, is take it back. Walmart is good about giving refunds.

Two arguments present; conclusions: "it doesn't really go very well on that wall," and "the best thing you could do with it, I'm afraid, is take it back"; "the best thing you could do . . ." is the conclusion of the principal argument.

6. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

"Hey, what IS that stuff you're cooking, anyway? It smells like fish."
"Fish! What do you mean, 'fish'? That's a pot roast I'm cooking."
"Oh . . . say, you don't mind if I open a window, do you? No, it's not the fish—uh, roast; it just seems sorta warm in here."

No argument; in the last passage the speaker is explaining—actually, pretending to explain—why he or she wants to open a window, not giving an argument that a window should be opened.

7. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

Imagine yourself naked, without weapons, and running after a deer. If you were to catch this deer how would you eat it? Humans are not equipped with canine teeth in order to eat meat without tools. A carnivore's teeth are long and sharp, and its jaws move up and down. Humans, by contrast, use their molars to crush and grind their food. Have you ever noticed that so many Americans are overweight and unhealthy? That's because they eat meat.
—From a student paper

Argument; the conclusion is that meat isn't an appropriate or healthy diet for humans.

8. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

Is Bill Clinton's behavior prior to his becoming President relevant to how he should be judged in office? Yes: 22%; No: 71%.
—From a telephone poll of 800 adult Americans taken for Time/CNN by Yankelovich Partners, Inc.

No argument.

9. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

"Hey, see that bald dude over there? You know how old that guy is? He's my teacher."
"I dunno, fifty, maybe."
"He's not fifty, he's almost seventy."
"Must eat a lot of Grow Pup."
"I guess! He's a good teacher, too. He really communicates. Makes you remember stuff. I forget now what the course was. . . ."

Argument; the conclusion is that he's a good teacher.

10. Identify the following passage as containing an argument, two arguments, or no argument; if it contains an argument, identify the conclusion(s); and, if it contains two arguments, indicate which argument is the principal argument.

"If you don't mow your lawn at least once a week, what happens is that when you do mow it, it'll turn brown later."

An argument in most contexts, for the unstated conclusion that you ought to mow your lawn at least once a week.

11. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Sydney is ten; therefore she likes horses.

"Ten-year-olds" like horses.

12. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Rajbir's a professional dancer, so we can assume that Rajbir practices several hours a day.

Most professional dancers practice several hours a day.

13. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Her home is in Santa Cruz, so I doubt it has depreciated in the last 5 years.

Home prices in Santa Cruz have depreciated in the last 5 years.

14. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Monica may have trouble sleeping tonight, since she drank tea at 10 pm.

Drinking caffeinated tea late in the day tends to keep people awake.

15. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

I'd bet the TV doesn't work right. Josh was messing with it.

When people mess with TVs, the TVs usually don't work right.

16. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Deborah loves American Idol. It's a good bet she watches Dancing with the Stars, too.

People who like American Idol generally watch shows like Dancing with the Stars, too.

17. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

Mr. Zing has a background in psychology. He is bound to make a good chairman.

People versed in psychology tend to make good administrators.

18. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

If your only source of information is *TV Guide*, you are not likely to be very well informed, so Michael is not likely to be well informed.

Those whose information is limited to *TV Guide* are not usually well informed.

19. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

All the moisture they get in Oregon keeps the grass green; so cows probably like Oregon.

Cows like places with green grass.

20. Supply a general principle that, assuming it is true, makes the following into a relatively strong inductive argument:

There is a south wind. We'll be getting rain.

South winds usually bring rain.

Fill in the Blank Questions

21. Arguments whose premises are intended to provide absolutely conclusive reasons for accepting the conclusion are _____.

deductive

22. Arguments whose premises are intended to provide some support but less than absolutely conclusive support for the conclusion are _____.

inductive

23. Sound arguments are deductive arguments that are _____.
valid

24. In sound arguments, the premises are all _____.
true

True / False Questions

25. A valid argument cannot have any false premises.
FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

26. If a strong argument has a false conclusion, then not all its premises can be true.
FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

27. If a valid argument has a false conclusion, then not all its premises can be true.
TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Multiple Choice Questions

28. The word "so" introduces

- A. a conclusion.
- B. a premise.
- C. sometimes a conclusion and sometimes a premise.

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29. Consider: " X. Therefore, since Y, Z." Which would go in the "Y" space?

- A. a premise
- B. a conclusion

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

30. According to the text, in order to be sound, an argument must be

- A. valid and strong.
- B. deductive and strong.
- C. valid and have true premises.

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31. "The ensemble played an encore at last year's concert, and I'm pretty sure they played one the year before as well. So they will most likely play an encore at this year's concert."

This argument is best taken as

- A. inductive.
- B. deductive.

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32. "Sheila's clarinet is French. It's a Leblanc, and all Leblanc instruments are made in France."

This argument is best taken as

- A. inductive
- B.** deductive.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

33. If we know that a valid argument has true premises, then the argument

- A.** must be sound.
- B. might be sound.
- C. is strong.
- D. might have a false conclusion.

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34. If we know that an argument is weak, then we know that the conclusion

- A. is false.
- B. is true.
- C.** may or may not be true.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Essay Questions

35. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

We'll be better off in the dark than driving on ice in the fog. So let's wait a while. If we're better off in the dark than driving on ice in the fog, then we should wait a while.

Answers will vary

36. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

Computer networks are immune from computer viruses only if they're completely isolated from other machines and stray software. So, as I told you, this network is not safe from viruses. This network is not completely isolated from other machines and stray software.

Answers will vary

37. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

It isn't too late. The bars haven't closed. If the bars haven't closed, then it isn't too late.

Answers will vary

38. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

I'd advise you not to vote for Melton. Melton is very radical. You shouldn't vote for radicals.

Answers will vary

39. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The almond trees have not blossomed. It is not yet the middle of February. The almond trees do not blossom before the middle of February.

Answers will vary

40. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

No floor with two-by-four joists on two-foot centers is strong enough. So this floor isn't strong enough. This floor has two-by-four joists on two-foot centers.

Answers will vary

41. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The only time you can count on dry weather in Seattle is the first week of August. So, since you need to count on dry weather for your trip, you'll have to plan it for next week. Next week is the first week of August.

Answers will vary

42. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The general population of the country has a favorable impression only of those members of the administration who get good press reviews, and Madelaine Albright, the Secretary of State, is the only current member of the administration who is getting good press. So she's the only one the country has a good impression of these days.

Answers will vary

43. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

A combination of anti-HIV drugs has proven much more successful than the use of any single drug. But that means successful treatments are going to be even more expensive, because taking the drugs in combination has to cost more than taking just a single drug.

Answers will vary

44. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The more people who have access to a medium, the more crackpot conspiracy theories you're going to find in that medium. Unfortunately, more people have access to the Internet than to any other medium, so that means there are more crackpot theories there than anywhere else.

Answers will vary

45. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

If your shoes are too small, then you shouldn't wear them, and those are much too small. Besides, they're worn out. If the shoes are worn out, then you shouldn't wear them.

Answers will vary

46. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

You shouldn't buy a television set that costs over \$300, and that one costs \$450. And that television set is much too big for your living room anyway. You shouldn't buy any television set that's too big for your living room.

Answers will vary

47. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

Tony's car is dangerous. It has bad brakes, and the tires are nearly worn out. Any car that has bad brakes is dangerous. Any car with tires that are nearly worn out is dangerous.

Answers will vary

48. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

If she really thought those clothes were unflattering, she wouldn't be caught dead in them. Anyway, she told me herself she thought she looked good in them, and she wouldn't say that unless she believed it, so she obviously does. She wears those clothes.

Answers will vary

49. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

You've got to take Math 3. First of all, it's a required part of the general education program. Second, it's a prerequisite for several courses in your major. You've got to take all required parts of the general education program. You've got to take all prerequisites for courses in your major.

Answers will vary

50. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

I've already won a hundred dollars in the state lottery, and hardly anyone wins that much twice. So I'm not likely to win that much again.

Answers will vary

51. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

It's Monday, so the mail carrier will probably arrive after noon today. He usually comes in the early afternoon on Mondays.

Answers will vary

52. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The blasted hedge clippers aren't working again. Must be the switch. That's usually the problem.

Answers will vary

53. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

"Sixty Minutes" has been in the top ten in the Neilsen ratings for the last twenty years. It's a safe bet it'll be there this coming season as well.

Answers will vary

54. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

I've been looking at the available literature on the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and the great majority of writers on the subject have grave doubts about the Rosenbergs's guilt. It seems clear that they may well have been innocent.

Answers will vary

55. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

Sal is probably going to be late, since the traffic is so bad. And he said he had an errand to run on his way over here.

Answers will vary

56. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated.

The MiniMax video camera: It's the lightest in weight, it's the least expensive, and it comes with the longest warranty in the business—all good reasons for making it the one you take home.

Answers will vary

57. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

Look, there's no sign of smoke from the cabin. If he were there, he'd have a fire, and we'd see the smoke, unless he couldn't find any dry wood. But there's a lot of dry wood around. Notice also that you don't hear his dog. He's not there. If you don't hear his dog, he's not there.

Answers will vary

58. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

Toyota is raising its prices by 3 percent on January 1, and we won't be able to afford one if we wait until then. Besides that, the old heap won't make it to the first of the year. We'll have to buy now. If we cannot afford a Toyota after January 1, we'll have to buy now. If the old heap won't make it to the first of the year, we'll have to buy now.

Answers will vary

59. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

Either there's a burglar outside, or there's a dog in the garbage. There can't be a dog in the garbage because of the fence. So, it must be a burglar. Besides, I think I saw a flashlight beam, and it could only be a burglar that would make such a light.

Answers will vary

60. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

The rules under which the IRS operates will change only if there are lots of complaints about IRS activities in the press, and there has not been that level of complaint the last year or two. Furthermore, the "internal culture" of the agency provides a powerful validation of its rules, and when that happens, you're not going to get rule changes. So I think it's safe to conclude that we won't be seeing any changes in the IRS rules in the near future.

Answers will vary

61. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing or clarifying premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

I'll bet a dollar that Booth picks Chapman as his new vice president. Booth and Chapman have been on a first-name basis for a long time, and Booth usually rewards his friends.

Answers will vary

62. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

I'm pretty certain she wouldn't be happy as a police officer. Just watching a crime movie makes her nervous, and if she can't tolerate simulated violence, she most likely won't like the real thing.

One way to indicate that the first and last claim are essentially the same is simply to assign them the same number in the passage. Another way is to give them different numbers and indicate their sameness in the diagram.

63. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

It seems pretty likely that all the smaller food stores around town are going to have trouble staying open. Jack's Market has closed, and the 5th Street Market has closed, and now I hear that the Cash And Carry across town is going to fold up, too. You'd best get used to the idea of shopping at the big supermarkets, since those are probably going to be all that's left in another six months.

Answers will vary

64. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

People who read more tend to have better vocabularies than those who don't, and having a good vocabulary makes you a better speaker and writer. Since good speaking and writing are important job skills, you are probably a better job candidate if you read a lot.

Answers will vary

65. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

For one thing, every movie Stallone has made in the past decade has made money. For another, blood-and-guts patriotism is selling big these days. So the combination of another film of that kind from Stallone is very nearly a certain moneymaker.

Answers will vary

66. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

Automobile air bags substantially reduce the chances of being hurt in a crash, and unlike seat belts, you can't forget to use them. What's more, there are almost no cases on record of a bag inflating when it shouldn't have and causing an accident. So, you're much safer buying a car with air bags than one without them.

Answers will vary

67. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

Let's see. I know our policy covers us if our car is stolen or if the windows are broken, so chances are it'll cover us if someone steals the stereo, too. Besides that, our homeowners policy covers stereos, and our car policy seems to cover a lot of the same stuff the homeowners policy covers.

Answers will vary

68. Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. You may want to diagram the argument. Is there an unstated conclusion?

The competition employs a sliding mechanism. But a hinged door is lighter and easier to operate and ensures a better fit and seal with the body than a sliding mechanism, thus keeping the cabin's interior noise level to a minimum. And it allows for greater freedom in the shape of the vehicle.

—Adapted from Mazda truck product manager Bernie Chaisson, arguing that the new Mazda MPV's door setup is superior to that of Chrysler minivans.

Unstated conclusion: "A hinged door is better than a sliding door."

69. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

The Gallup people estimate that most Americans believe that physicians' fees are excessive, so probably most of them do. I know everyone I talk to thinks that. But we'll never have socialized medicine in this country. Americans will pay any amount for the freedom to choose their own doctors; that's what history tells us.

Note that this passage has arguments for two separate conclusions.

70. A) Analyze the argument passage below, addressing the following as appropriate: specify the issues addressed; identify premises and conclusions; classify as inductive or deductive; supply missing premises; separate arguments from window dressing; identify claims better left unstated. B) Diagram the argument.

I think we should ask Bill to take care of the house while we're gone. He took good care of Kent's house, according to Kent. In addition, he's always been responsible about other things. I'm sure he'll do a good job.

Answers will vary