

Arguments

**PHIL 203
Critical Thinking
Lecture One**

Importance of Arguments

- **For academics**
- **For scientists**
- **For policy makers**
- **For business people**
- **For lawyers**
- **For students**
- **For parents**
- **For everyone**

What Arguments Are Not

- **Not fights**
 - But sometimes
- **Not contentious**
 - But sometimes
- **Not controversial**
 - But sometimes
- **Not academic**
 - But sometimes

Support of a Position

- **Positions**
 - Beliefs
 - Theories
 - Hypotheses
- **Support**
 - Metaphor
 - Defense
 - Following from
 - *Evidence for*

Parts of an Argument

- **Conclusion**
 - Technical term
 - Position, theory, etc.
- **Premise[s]**
 - Reasons
 - What does the defending
 - *Evidence*
- **Connection**

Schematized Argument

e_1 . Premise
 e_2 . Premise
 e_3 . Premise
 ...
 e_n . Premise
 =====
 t_0 . Conclusion

Sample Argument

Dick's cheating on Jane. He told her he had to work late, but Sally saw his car at Joe's Bar. Not only that, he leers at other women, and the last three times she called him he didn't answer.

- Schematize

Dick and Jane

- e₁. Told her he had to work late
- e₂. Sally saw his car at Joe's Bar
- e₃. Leers at other women
- e_n. Didn't answer last three calls

=====

- t₀. Dick's cheating on Jane

Sample Argument

Charley's take-home exam was word-for-word identical to Sarah's. Clearly, Charley copied it from Sarah. The guy's a loser, never comes to class, and doesn't know how to write very well.

- Schematize

Charley and Sarah

e_1 . Charley's take-home exam was word-for-word identical to Sarah's.

e_2 . Charley is a loser

e_3 . Rarely comes to class

e_n . Doesn't write very well

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t_0 . Charley copied from Sarah

Sample Argument

The light from virtually every galaxy is “redshifted.” This shows that every galaxy is moving away from every other galaxy. Therefore, the physical universe is expanding.

- Schematize

Expanding Universe

- e_1 . The light from virtually every galaxy is “redshifted.”
- e_2 . Every galaxy is moving away from every other galaxy.
- =====
- t_0 . Physical universe is expanding.

Expanding Universe

e_1 . The light from virtually every galaxy is "redshifted."

=====

t_0 . Physical universe is expanding.

Expanding Universe

e_1 . The light from virtually every galaxy is "redshifted."

=====

t_0' . Every galaxy is moving away from every other galaxy.

=====

t_0'' . Physical universe is expanding.