

## Introduction to Logical Reasoning

### Workshop #2: Argument Parsing (Solutions)

**Part I:** Each of the following problems presents an argument. For each argument, (1) underline any conclusion indicators, (2) circle any premise indicators, (3) circle and denote with a C the argument's main conclusion, and (4) underline and number each premise. These problems should be fairly straightforward.

1. Campaign finance reform is needed because many contributions to political campaigns are morally equivalent to bribes.  
C 1

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1], the premise [1], and the premise indicator [1]. Following directions [1].  
No other mistakes [1].

2. In spite of the fact that electrons are physical entities, they cannot be seen For electrons are too small to deflect photons.  
C 1

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1], the premise [1], and the premise indicator [1]. Following directions [1].  
No other mistakes [1].

3. The defendant is guilty. The reasons being he confessed to stealing the jewels, he was present at the scene of the crime, and his fingerprints are on the safe.  
C 1 2 3

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1], the premises [3], and the premise indicator [1]. Following directions [1].  
No other mistakes [1].

4. If Qatar wins the Asian Cup, then the fans from Bahrain will shout obscenities. So you should leave your children at home because Qatar is going to win it!  
1 2 C

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1], the premises [2], the premise indicator [1], and the conclusion indicator [1]. Following directions [1]. No other mistakes [1].

## Workshop #2: Argument Parsing (Solutions)

**Part II:** Each of the following problems presents an argument. For each argument, (1) underline any conclusion indicators, (2) circle any premise indicators, (3) circle and denote with a C the argument's main conclusion, and (4) underline and number each premise. Some of these problems may require more thought.

1. The newest news dispenser, the runaway Internet, makes a journalist out of anybody who has a modem.

1

It values speed and sensation above accuracy. New media will not accept our standards. We are foolish to

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treat them as if they have. (This is a grim time for newspapers.)

C

—Sandra Mims Rowe, Editor, *Portland Oregonian*,

Keynote Address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1 April 1998.

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1] and the premises [3]. Following directions [1]. No other mistakes [1].

2. Either the Internet is killing journalism or journalists are adapting. But the Internet has widened the audience of

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news consumers and put more news at people's fingertips, and if these two things are true then the Internet is

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not killing journalism. So the Internet is not killing journalism. Therefore (journalists are adapting.)

5

C

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1], the premises [5], and the conclusion indicators [2]. Following directions [1]. No other mistakes [1].

3. It is the non-Internet media that have made the most notorious journalistic errors of late: the bogus eyewitness

1

account of a Monica-Clinton tryst, the incrimination of Richard Jewell [falsely accused by the media for bomb-

ing the 1996 Summer Olympics], the digital capping of [septuplets father] Bobbi McCaughey's teeth, the serial

publication of plagiarized and fictional stories in *The New Republic* and, just three days after the Drudge speech,

[American comedian] Bob Hope's "death." (It's past time to retire the Internet as a scapegoat for journalistic ills.)

C

It's a medium, not a message, and it can be used as irresponsibly or as honorably as a printing press or a TV

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network can.

—Frank Rich, Opinion, *New York Times*, 10 June 1998.

Correctly identifying the conclusion [1] and the premises [4]. Following directions [1]. No other mistakes [1].