

CRITICAL THINKING

Lecture #5

More on Diagramming Arguments

Professor David Emmanuel Gray



Diagramming Arguments: *Instructions*

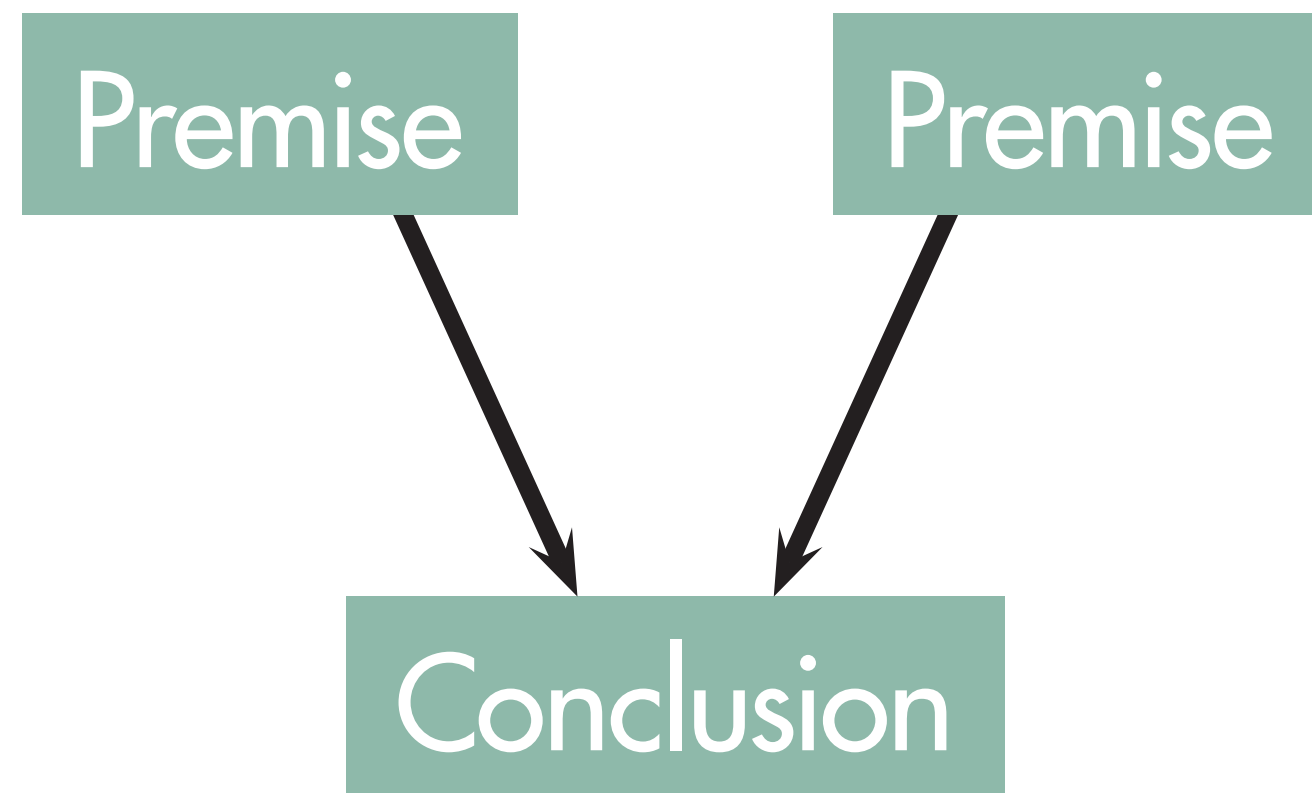
Diagramming an argument to reveal its inferential structure works as follows:

1. Circle and denote with a C the argument's main conclusion,
2. Underline and number each premise and sub-conclusion (if any), and
3. Arrange these into an argument map that faithfully represents the argument as given.

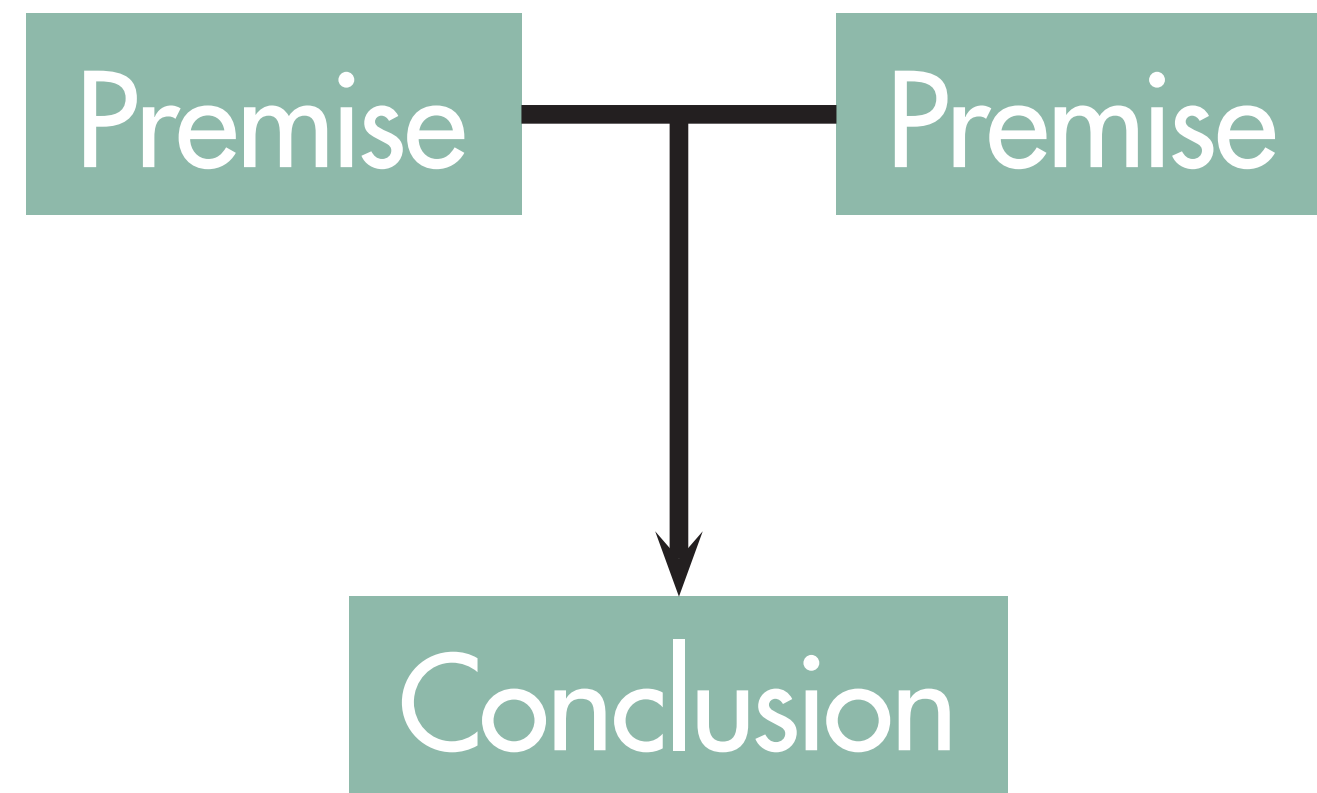
For each argument map, put boxes around the statements and use arrows to indicate inferential support, arranging these in a clear way that is visually easy to follow.

Different Inference Patterns

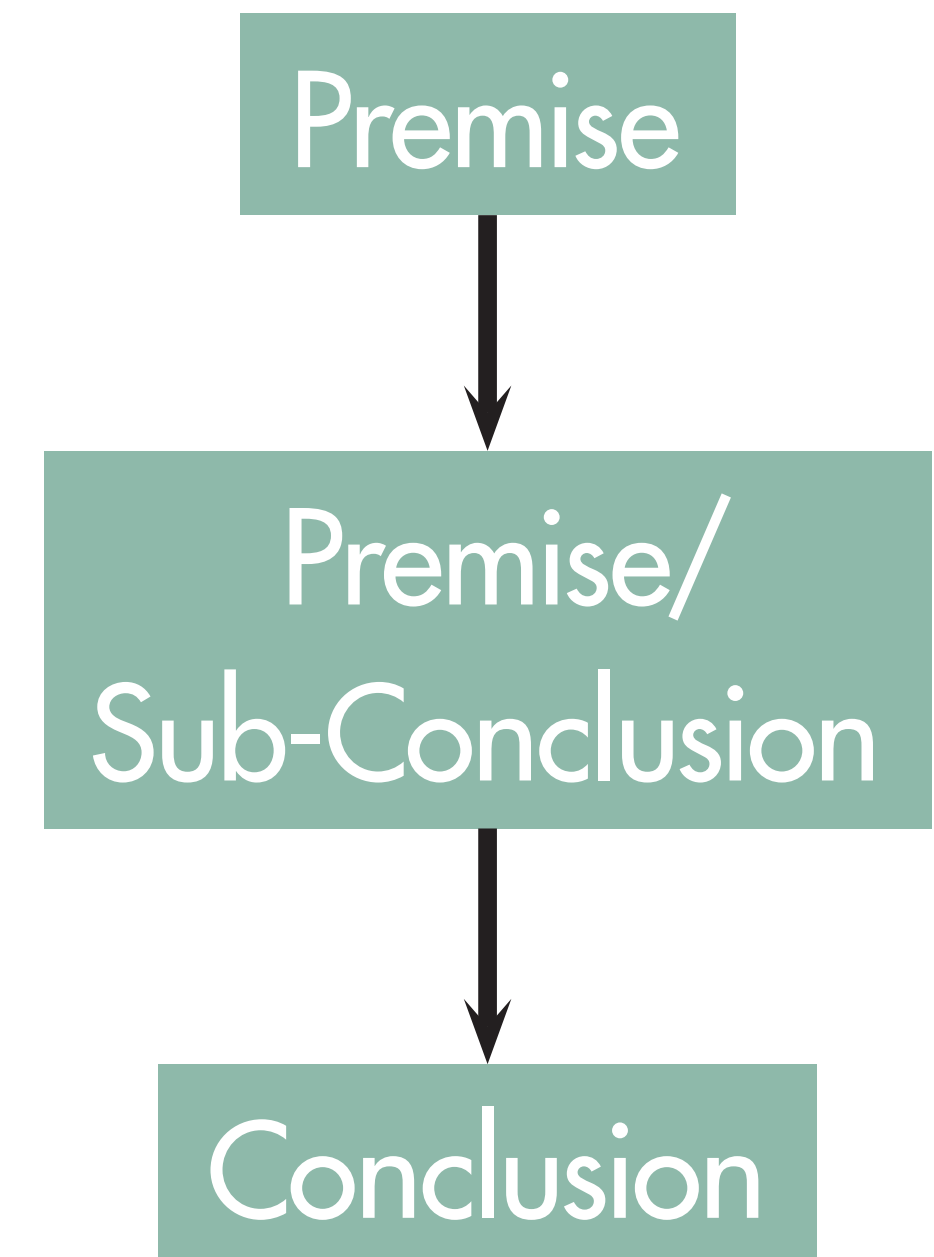
Independent
Premises



Dependent
Premises



Argument
Chain



Argument #1

Diagram the following argument:

Either I sell fun video games or I go out of business, and therefore I sell fun video games since I have not gone out of business.

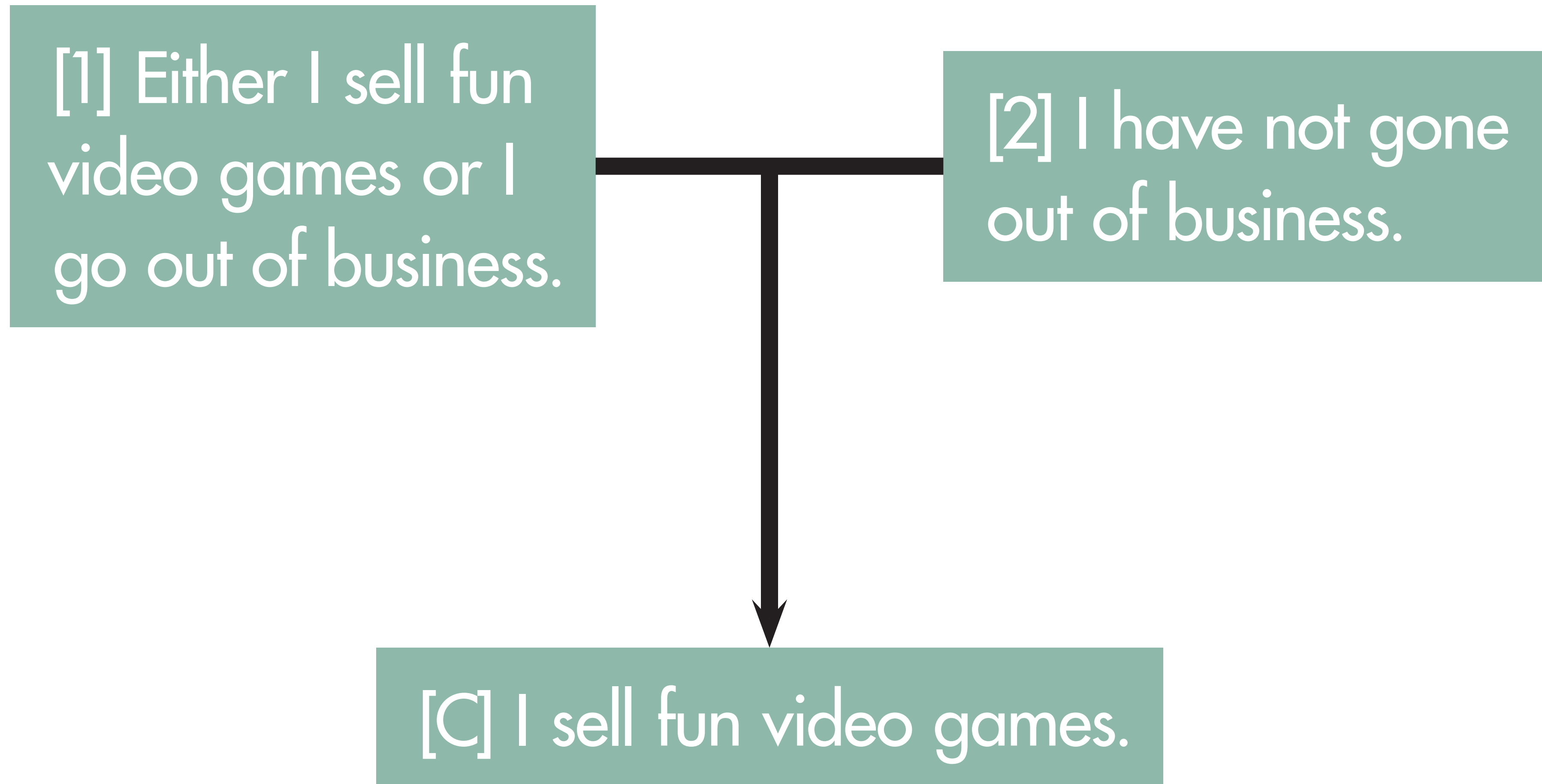
Argument #1: *Parsed*

Diagram the following argument:

Either I sell fun video games or I go out of business, and
therefore I sell fun video games since I have not gone out of
business.

1
 CI
 C
 PI
 2

Argument #1: *Diagrammed*



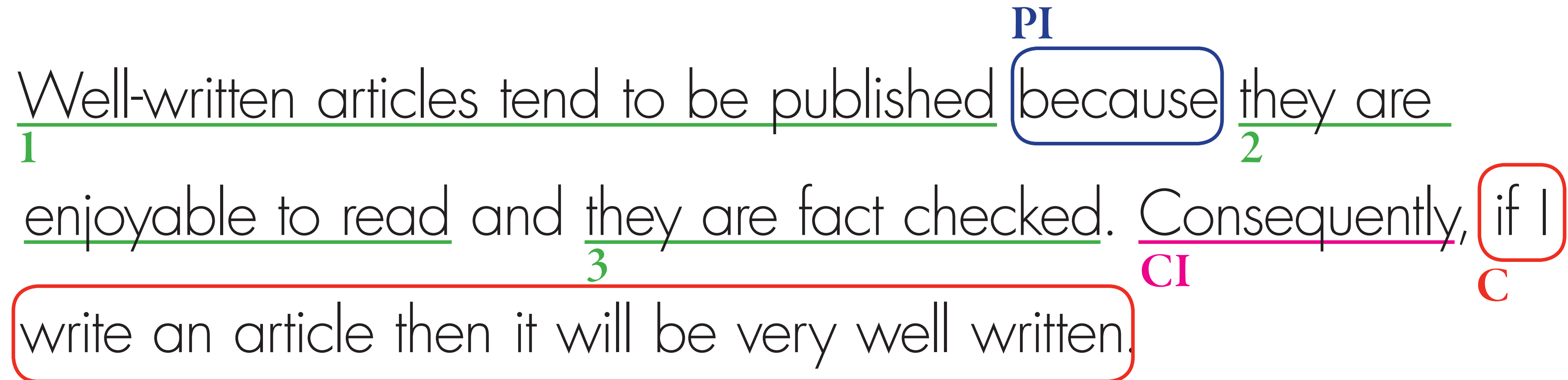
Argument #2

Diagram the following argument:

Well-written articles tend to be published because they are enjoyable to read and they are fact checked. Consequently, if I write an article then it will be very well written.

Argument #2: *Parsed*

Diagram the following argument:



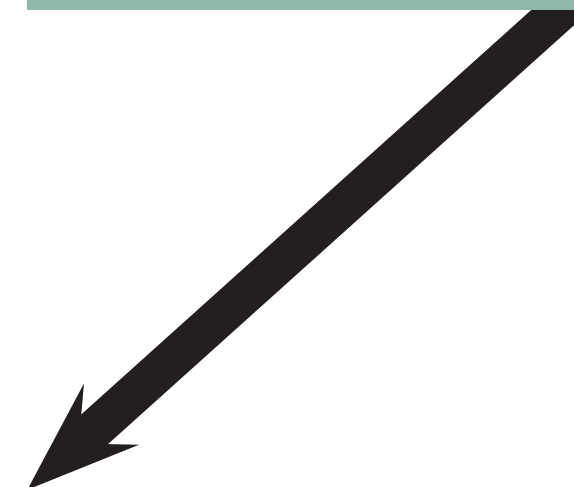
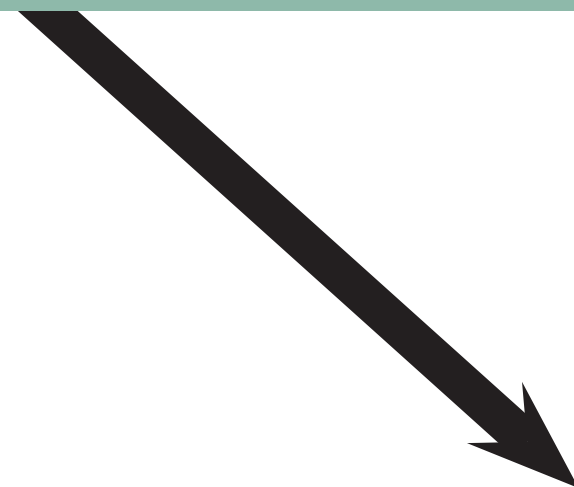
Argument #2: *Diagrammed*

[2] Well-written articles
are enjoyable to read.

[3] Well-written articles
are fact checked.

[1] Well-written articles tend to be published.

[C] If I write an article then it will be very well written.



Argument #3

Diagram the following argument:

Morality, by definition, promotes the good, and so the morally right thing to do is whatever maximizes the good. But either pleasure is "the good" or morality has nothing to do with what people actually want since it is obvious that all people seek pleasure. Consequently, if you believe morality is not about pleasure then you must admit that morality maximizes something that all people do not want.

Argument #3: *Parsed*

Diagram the following argument:

Morality, by definition, promotes the good, and so the morally
right thing to do is whatever maximizes the good. But either
pleasure is "the good" or morality has nothing to do with what
people actually want since it is obvious that all people seek
pleasure. Consequently, if you believe morality is not about
pleasure then you must admit that morality maximizes something
that all people do not want.

Argument #3: *Diagrammed*

[1] Morality promotes the good.

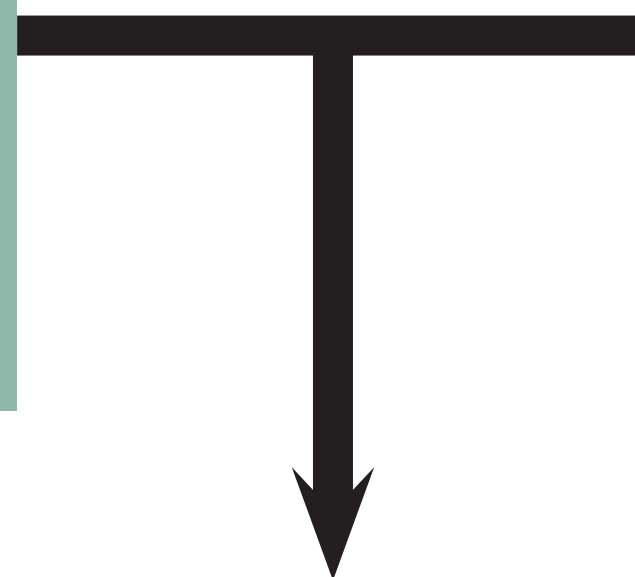


[2] The morally right thing to do is whatever maximizes the good.

[4] All people seek pleasure.



[3] Either pleasure is “the good” or morality has nothing to do with what people actually want.



[C] If you believe morality is not about pleasure then you must admit that morality maximizes something that all people do not want.

Next Class...

We will have a workshop on diagramming arguments.