

CRITICAL THINKING

Workshop #2

Argument Parsing

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Explanation of Annotations for These Solutions

The problem is in black Futura Std type.

Argument parsing is done as seen in class.

Any commentary is in blue Futura Std type.

Please Note: When solving these types of problems for a quiz or an exam, you are expected to format your own solutions in a similar manner as I have done on these slides. Failure to do so may result in a small penalty for not following instructions or even a larger penalty because I do not understand your solution.

Part I Solutions

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

Part I Solutions

2. In spite of the fact that electrons are physical entities, ^Cthey cannot be seen. ^{PI}For ^Ielectrons are too small to deflect photons.

Comment: “Electrons are physical entities” is certainly a statement, and yet it is actually *not* logically part of the argument. This statement is simply giving context to (and not a justification for) the conclusion.

Part I Solutions

3. ^C The defendant is guilty. ^{PI} 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.
₁
₂
₃

Comment: Remember that conjunctive premises should be separated into their conjuncts. However, do not break down disjunctive and hypothetical premises.

Part I Solutions

4. If Qatar wins the Asian Cup, then fans from Bahrain will shout
1
obscenities and throw soda cans. So leave your children at home
CI C
because Qatar is going to win!
PI 2

Part II Solutions

1. The newest news dispenser, the runaway Internet, makes a journalist
1
out of anybody who has a modem. It values speed and sensation
2
above accuracy. New media will not accept our standards. We are
3
foolish to treat them as if they have. This is a grim time for newspapers.
C

Part II Solutions

2. 1 Either the Internet is killing journalism or journalists are adapting. But 2 the Internet has widened the audience of news consumers and 3 put more news at people's fingertips, and 4 if these two things are true then the Internet is not killing journalism. CI 5 So the Internet is not killing journalism.
- CI Therefore C journalists are adapting.

Part II Solutions

3. It is the non-Internet media that have made the most notorious journalistic errors of late:
1 the bogus eyewitness account of a Monica-Clinton tryst, the incrimination of Richard Jewell [falsely accused by the media for bombing 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. It's a medium, not a message, and it can
2 3 4
be used as irresponsibly or as honorably as a printing press or a TV network can.

Next Class...

We will look at how to construct a visual representation of an argument, known as an argument diagram (or an argument map).