CRITICAL THINKING

Workshop #6: Assessing Arguments with Truth Tables

Part I: Each of the following problems presents an argument. For each, use the truth table method from class (or the textbook) to determine whether it is a valid or invalid argument. Be sure to briefly explain how the truth table supports your answer concerning the validity of the argument.

1. 1. $p \rightarrow (q \,\&\, r)$.
   2. $\sim p$.

   $\therefore$ $\sim r$.

p	q	r	$q \,\&\, r$	$p \rightarrow (q \,\&\, r)$	$\sim p$	$\sim r$
T	T	T				
T	T	F				
T	F	T				
T	F	F				
F	T	T				
F	T	F				
F	F	T				
F	F	F				

2. 1. $p \vee q$.
   2. $\sim p$.

   $\therefore$ q.

3. 1. $p \rightarrow q$.
   2. $q \rightarrow r$.

   $\therefore$ $p \rightarrow r$.

Please continue ▶

Workshop #6: Assessing Arguments with Truth Tables (Continued)

Part II: Each of the following problems presents an argument in English. For each, (1) translate it into the language of symbolic logic, using the indicated capital letters to label each simple positive statement involved, (2) put it into argumentative form, and (3) use the truth table method from class (or the textbook) to determine whether the argument is valid or invalid. Be sure to briefly explain how the truth table supports your answer concerning the validity of the argument.

1. Either the Internet is **killing** journalism or journalists are **adapting**. Well, the audience of news consumers not **widening** is a necessary condition of the internet **killing** journalism. But the audience of news consumers is **widening**! Therefore, journalists are **adapting**. (K, A, W)

2. Is the Internet is killing journalism? Well, the Internet has **widened** the audience of news consumers and it has put more news at people's **fingertips**, and both these things are sufficient for the Internet to not be **killing** journalism. So, the Internet is not **killing** journalism. (W, F, K)

You're done!