

Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Parsing Arguments

David Emmanuel Gray

Northwestern University in Qatar
Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

Argument 1

Parse the following argument:

I will only submit well-written articles that are fact-checked given that articles that are not fact-checked may contain libelous material.

In addition, well-written articles have a good chance of actually being published.

Argument 2

Parse the following argument:

If SAQR sells games people want to play,
then people will buy games from them.

No one is buying games from SAQR, thus
it is not selling games people want to play.

Argument 3

[1] Is global warming a real threat? [2] Or is it hype propagated by tree-hugging, daft environmentalists? [3] The president apparently thinks that the idea of global climate change is bunk. [4] But recently his own administration gave the lie to his bunk theory. [5] His own administration issued a report on global warming called the *U.S. Climate Action Report 2002*. [6] It gave no support to the idea that global warming doesn't happen and we should all go back to sleep. [7] Instead it asserted that global warming was definitely real and that it could have catastrophic consequences if ignored. [8] For example, global climate change could cause heat waves, extreme weather, and water shortages right here in the United States. [9] The report is also backed by many other reports, including a very influential one from the United Nations. [10] Yes, George, global warming is real. [11] It is as real as typhoons and ice storms.

Logic and Rhetoric

If so little of this passage contains premises and conclusions of an argument, then what is the point of all the extra stuff? Is it just a waste of space?

Next Class...

We will have a workshop on parsing arguments.