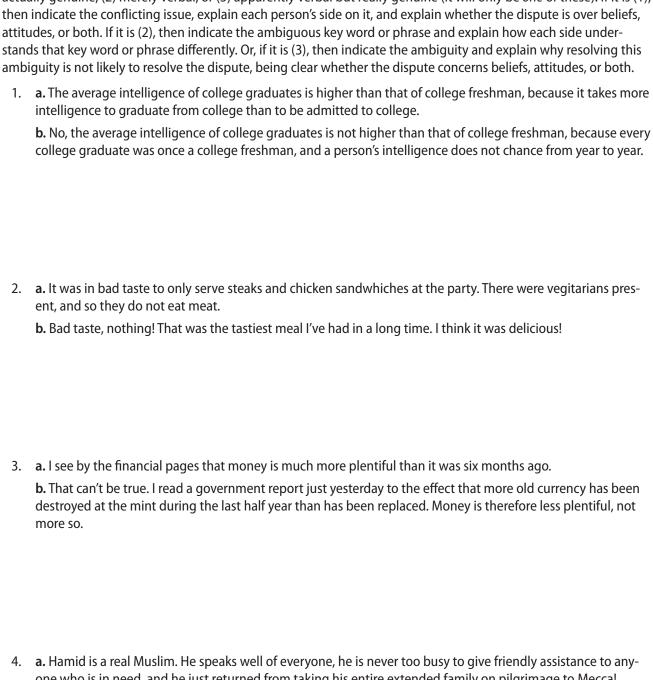# Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Workshop on Dispute Analysis and Diagraming Arguments

Part I: Each dispute below has two opposing viewpoints. For each, indicate whether the dispute is primarily (1) actually genuine, (2) merely verbal, or (3) apparently verbal but really genuine (it will only be *one* of these). If it is (1), then indicate the conflicting issue, explain each person's side on it, and explain whether the dispute is over beliefs, attitudes, or both. If it is (2), then indicate the ambiguous key word or phrase and explain how each side understands that key word or phrase differently. Or, if it is (3), then indicate the ambiguity and explain why resolving this ambiguity is not likely to resolve the dispute, being clear whether the dispute concerns beliefs, attitudes, or both.

1. **a.** The average intelligence of college graduates is higher than that of college freshman, because it takes more intelligence to graduate from college than to be admitted to college.

    b. No, the average intelligence of college graduates is not higher than that of college freshman, because every college graduate was once a college freshman, and a person's intelligence does not chance from year to year.

2. **a.** It was in bad taste to only serve steaks and chicken sandwhiches at the party. There were vegitarians present, and so they do not eat meat.

    b. Bad taste, nothing! That was the tastiest meal I've had in a long time. I think it was delicious!

3. **a.** I see by the financial pages that money is much more plentiful than it was six months ago.

    b. That can't be true. I read a government report just yesterday to the effect that more old currency has been destroyed at the mint during the last half year than has been replaced. Money is therefore less plentiful, not more so.

4. **a.** Hamid is a real Muslim. He speaks well of everyone, he is never too busy to give friendly assistance to anyone who is in need, and he just returned from taking his entire extended family on pilgrimage to Mecca!

    b. I wouln't call Hamid a Muslim. He spends his Fridays driving around in his Land Cruiser or playing out on the golf course, rarely showing his face at the mosque from one end of the year to the other!

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Part II: For each argument below, (i) circle and denote with a C the argument's main conclusion; (ii) underline and number each premise and sub-conclusion (if any); and (iii) arrange these into an argument map that faithfully represents the argument as given. It is okay if you just put a label into each box and not write out the full proposition.

1. Young journalists [should] go work in India. There are so many great newspapers in India. I go quite a lot, actually. It has a very vibrant newspaper and magazine culture. There's a lot of energy in Delhi, a lot of newsmagazines. It's a very literary culture, it's great.

    —Tina Brown (editor, *The Daily Beast*), interview with
    Mike Vilensky, Daily Intel, *New York Magazine*, 8 September 2010.

2. The Internet has destroyed balanced, thoughtful journalism because it promotes sensationalism and trains people to consume news in smaller, bite-sized pieces.

    —Media insiders, interview with
    Chris Good, Politics, *The Atlantic*, 10 April 2009.

3. There are two primary reasons some of these Internet aggregators [like AOL, Yahoo, Politico, The Huffington Post, and The Daily Beast] may have a leg up on finding the ultimate business model for original [journalistic] content: 1) They already have experience giving audiences the kind of content they want on the new digital platforms; and, 2) They don't have to support the legacy businesses, like print or broadcast, which have huge cost structures that are becoming less efficient as their audiences splinter off and require multiple distribution systems to reach.

    —Larry Kramer, Can Yahoo Save the News?, *The Daily Beast*, 30 August 2009.