

Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Workshop on Informally Assessing Arguments

Part I: Evaluate each argument below by means of the procedure discussed in lecture. Begin by putting the argument into its argumentative form so that its premises and main conclusion are identified. These ones should be fairly straightforward.

1. 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

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 if these two things are true, then the Internet is not killing journalism. So, the Internet is not killing journalism.

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

—Sandra Mims Rowe, Editor, *Portland Oregonian*,
Keynote Address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1 April 1998

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Part II: Evaluate each argument below by means of the procedure discussed in lecture. Begin by putting the argument into its argumentative form so that its premises and main conclusion are identified. Some of these may require a little more thought.

1. The argument for the moral permissibility of Qatarization is simple. First, it is obvious that it is morally permissible for the head of a family to care more for the members of his or her family than outsiders. Second, Qatarization simply involves the Qatar government giving more aid to its own citizens as opposed to the expats living in the country. Besides, the America government does the same thing for its own citizens and this is thought morally permissible. So stop complaining about Qatarization already!

2. 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.

3. Either the Internet is killing journalism or journalists are adapting. Well, if the internet is killing journalism, then the audience of news consumers should not widen. But the audience of news consumers is widening! Therefore, journalists are adapting.