

# Introduction to Logical Reasoning

*Workshop on Dispute Analysis and  
Diagramming Arguments*

David Emmanuel Gray

---

*Northwestern University in Qatar  
Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar*

# Part I, Problem 1 Solution

---

- 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 change from year to year.

This is a type (1) dispute; it is actually genuine. **a** affirms and **b** denies the statement that the average intelligence of college graduates is higher than that of college freshman. This is most likely a factual matter concerning something that might best be resolved by a study. So it is a dispute of belief and not attitudes.

# Part I, Problem 2 Solution

---

- a. It was in bad taste to only serve steaks and chicken sandwiches at the party. There were vegetarians 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!

This is a type (3) dispute; it is apparently verbal but really genuine. The ambiguous phrase “bad taste” is used by **a** in the sense of improper or unseemly, but by **b** in the sense of being good to eat. Resolving this verbal issue is unlikely to placate them since they probably disagree in their attitudes (and not beliefs) over the menu in question, with **a** against it and **b** in favor of it.

# Part I, Problem 3 Solution

---

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.

This is a type (2) dispute; it is merely verbal. The ambiguous phrase “more plentiful” (as applied to money) is used by a in the (quite common) sense of greater amounts of money available for borrowing, but by b in the (quite uncommon) sense greater amounts of money existing physically. Agreeing on what is meant by this phrase would most likely end the dispute.

# Part I, Problem 4 Solution

---

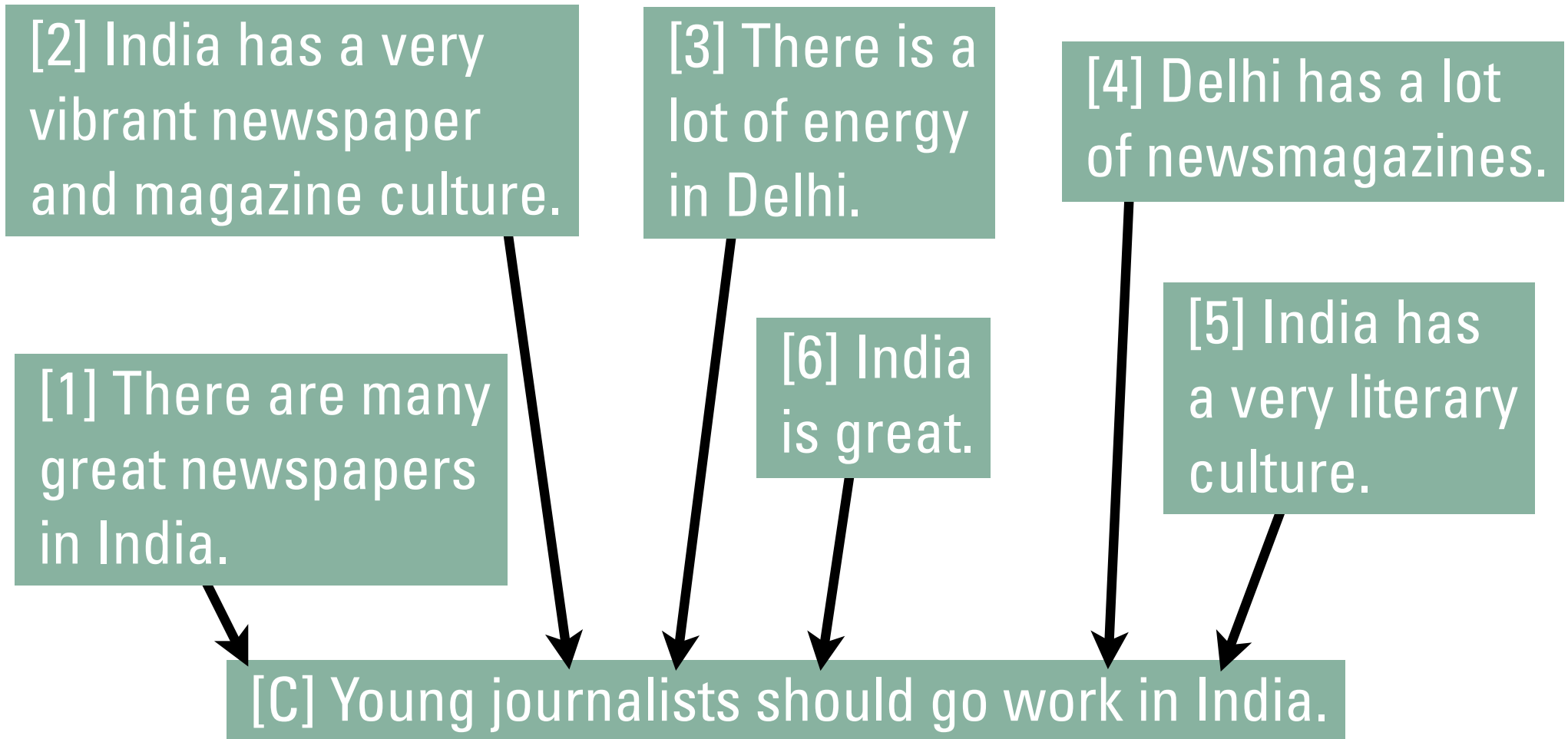
a. Hamid is a real Muslim. He speaks well of everyone, he is never too busy to give friendly assistance to anyone who is in need, and he just returned from taking his entire extended family on pilgrimage to Mecca!

b. I wouldn'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!

This is a type (3) dispute; it is apparently verbal but really genuine. The ambiguous word “Muslim” is used by a in the sense of one who helps others and goes on the Hajj, but by b in the sense of one who regularly attends Friday prayers at a mosque. But they probably really disagree in attitude towards Hamid, a approving and b disapproving of him.

# Part 2, Problem 1 Solution

C Young journalists [should] go work in India. <sup>1</sup> There are so many great newspapers in India. I go quite a lot, actually. <sup>2</sup> It has a very vibrant newspaper and magazine culture. <sup>3</sup> There's a lot of energy in Delhi, a lot of newsmagazines. <sup>4</sup> It's a very literary culture, it's great. <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup>



# Part 2, Problem 2 Solution

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

2

1

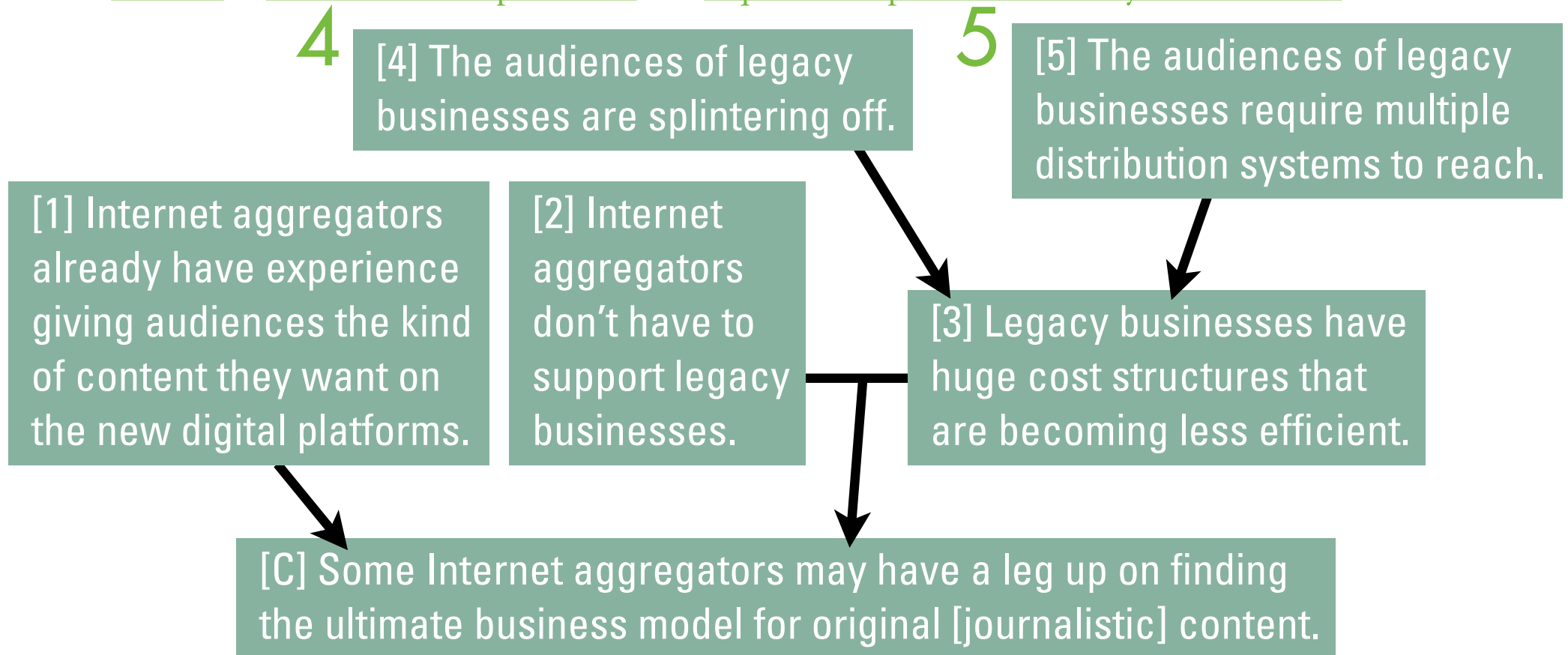
[1] The Internet promotes sensationalism.

[2] The Internet trains people to consume news in smaller, bite-sized pieces.

[C] The Internet has destroyed balanced, thoughtful journalism.

# Part 2, Problem 3 Solution

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.





# Next Class...

---

We will do further work with argument diagrams.

Do not forget, **Exam #1** is a week from today (February 3<sup>rd</sup>). Anything from units #1 and #2 is fair game. We will have an in-class review session this Tuesday (February 1<sup>st</sup>), but please start studying now!