
Workshop on Argument Parsing

Part II: Each of the following problems presents an argument. For each argument, (1) underline any conclusion indicators, (2) circle any premise indicators, (3) circle and denote with a C the argument's conclusion, and (4) underline and number each premise. Some of these arguments may require a little more thought.

1. 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.

2. Either the Internet is killing journalism or journalists are adapting. But the Internet has widened the audience of news consumers and 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. Therefore journalists are adapting.

3. It is the non-Internet media that have made the most notorious journalistic errors of late: the bogus eyewitness account of a Monica-Clinton tryst, the incrimination of Richard Jewell [falsely accused by the media for bombing the 1996 Summer Olympics], the digital capping of [septuplets father] Bobbi McCaughey's teeth, the serial publication of plagiarized and fictional stories in *The New Republic* and, just three days after the Drudge speech, [American comedian] Bob Hope's "death." It's past time to retire the Internet as a scapegoat for journalistic ills. It's a medium, not a message, and it can be used as irresponsibly or as honorably as a printing press or a TV network can.

—Frank Rich, Opinion, *New York Times*, 10 June 1998.