

Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Workshop on Assessing Arguments with Truth Tables

Part I: Each of the following problems presents an argument. For each, use the truth table method from class to determine whether it is a valid or invalid argument. Be sure to briefly explain how the truth table supports your answer concerning the validity of the argument.

1. 1. $p \rightarrow (q \& r)$.
 2. $\sim p$.
 —
 $\therefore \sim r$.

p	q	r	$q \& r$	$p \rightarrow (q \& r)$	$\sim p$	$\sim r$
T	T	T				
T	T	F				
T	F	T				
T	F	F				
F	T	T				
F	T	F				
F	F	T				
F	F	F				

2. 1. $p \vee q$.
 2. $\sim p$.
 —
 $\therefore q$.

3. 1. $p \rightarrow q$.
 2. $q \rightarrow r$.
 —
 $\therefore p \rightarrow r$.

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Part II: Each of the following problems presents an argument in English. For each, (1) translate it into the language of logic, putting it into its argumentative form, and (2) use the truth table method from class to determine whether the argument is valid or invalid. Be sure to briefly explain how the truth table supports your answer concerning the validity of the argument.

1. 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.
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.