

---

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
CHAPTER 1 THE NATURE OF ARGUMENT	1
1.1 Argument Structure	1
1.2 Argument Strength	4
1.3 Recognizing Arguments	11
1.4 Small Interjectory Sermon	16
1.5 Arguments without Indicator Expressions	17
1.6 Explanations and Causal Descriptions	18
CHAPTER 2 DIAGRAMING ARGUMENTS	23
2.1 Bracketing and Diagraming Arguments	23
2.2 Split-Support Arguments	31

2.3	Repeated Statements	35
2.4	Nested and Incomplete Statements	36
2.5	Irrelevant Statements	39
2.6	Premises Used in More than One Inference	40
2.7	Multiple Conclusions	41
2.8	Obscure Arguments	43
CHAPTER 3 EVALUATING ARGUMENTS		52
3.1	Truth or Falsity of Basic Premises	52
3.2	Possible Worlds and the Test for Validity	54
3.3	Probability and the Test for Inductiveness	59
3.4	Evaluating the Reasoning of Simple Arguments	64
3.5	Evaluating the Reasoning of Complex Normal Arguments	70
3.6	Evaluating Overall Argument Strength	75
3.7	Evaluating Split-Support Arguments	89
3.8	Self-Weakening and Fortuitous Strength	92
CHAPTER 4 IMPLICIT PREMISES AND CONCLUSIONS		97
4.1	Criteria for Adding Premises and Conclusions	97
4.2	Applying the Criteria	106
4.3	Rewriting Arguments	116
4.4	Lengthy Passages of Reasoning	137
CHAPTER 5 DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS		141
5.1	Validity and Argument Form	141
5.2	Conditionals	148
5.3	Conditional Proof	151
5.4	Reductio ad Absurdum	158
5.5	Logical Necessity, Contingency, and Inconsistency	169
5.6	Begging the Question	176
CHAPTER 6 INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS		181
6.1	Statistical Syllogism and Related Arguments	182
6.2	Suppressed Evidence	186
6.3	Kinds of Probability	192
6.4	Statistical Generalization	197
6.5	The Principle of the Uniformity of Nature	204

6.6	Induction by Analogy	211
6.7	Correlation	216
6.8	Causation	222
6.9	Scientific Theories	235

**CHAPTER 7 FALLACIES** 245

7.1	Appeals to the Actions or Opinions of Others	245
7.2	Arguments against the Person	251
7.3	The Aesthetic Fallacy	253
7.4	The Argument from Ignorance	256
7.5	Fallacies of Composition and Division	257
7.6	Fallacies of Ambiguity	260
7.7	Fallacies of Vagueness	267
7.8	Slippery-Slope Fallacies	270

**CHAPTER 8 FALSEHOOD, DECEPTION, AND EMOTION** 278

8.1	Varieties of Falsehood	278
8.2	Straw Man Arguments	282
8.3	False Dilemmas	283
8.4	Domino Arguments	284
8.5	Gobbledygook	287
8.6	Emotion	288
8.7	Definitions, Good and Bad	290

**CHAPTER 9 ARGUMENT CONSTRUCTION** 297

9.1	The Nature of Insight	297
9.2	Formulating the Conclusion	299
9.3	Finding Common Ground: The Socratic Method	301
9.4	Clarity	311
9.5	Organization	317

**CHAPTER 10 INTRODUCTION TO FORMAL LOGIC** 321

10.1	Negation, Conjunction, and Disjunction	322
10.2	Conditionals	333
10.3	Biconditionals	337
10.4	Necessity, Contingency, and Inconsistency Revisited	340

Contents

---

**X**

10.5	The Truth-Table Test for Validity	342
10.6	A Brief History of Logic	348
	<i>Suggestions for Further Study</i>	354
	<i>Appendix: The Paradoxes of Inductive Probability</i>	356
	<i>Answers to Selected Exercises</i>	358
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	417
	<i>Index</i>	419