

Chapter 1 Homework

Exercise 1-1

Instructions: Determine which of the following are **claims**, and which are not claims.

- # 1) Why??!!!
- # 2) Go to the store and get the groceries.
- # 3) Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) is great.
- # 4) Is AOC great?
- # 5) When I went to the store, there were a bunch of people who asked me for money standing outside.

Exercise 1-2

Instructions: Determine which of the following claims are objective, and which are subjective.

- # 1) Donald Trump can fake a good Australian accent.
- # 2) Green is the most pleasant color to look at.
- # 3) Opera would be much easier to listen to if they'd leave out the singing.
- # 4) My friend Hector thinks that religion is stupid.
- # 5) Scientists have detected planets orbiting stars in other solar systems.

Exercise 1-3

Instructions: Determine which of the possible premises would be most relevant to the conclusion provided.

1)

1. _____

So you should take the new job.

Possible Premises:

- a. The new job pays better than your current job.
- b. Your friends think you should take the new job.
- c. Your cousin is also looking for a new job.
- d. People tend to make more money if they are more highly educated.

2)

1. _____

Thus, religious freedom should be respected in our country.

Possible Premises:

- a. Some religions are more peaceful than others.
- b. Buddhists believe that when you die, you reincarnate into another being in your next life.
- c. Our country was founded on principles of equality and respect for all individuals.
- d. The second amendment says that people have the right to bear arms.

Exercise 1-4

Instructions: Determine which of the following are **arguments**, and which are not arguments.

1) Jason Tatum is unlikely to win the MVP this year. He is not the division leader in shooting, plus his team has not won that many games.

2) Hey there Marco! Don't go giving that cat top sirloin. What's the matter with you? Have you got no brains?

3) Everybody is saying the president earned the Nobel Prize. What a stupid idea! He hasn't earned it at all. There's not a bit of truth in that notion.

4) As a long-time customer, you're already taking advantage of our money management expertise and variety of investment choices. That's a good reason to for consolidating your other eligible assets into an IRA with us.

5) Yes I charge a bit more than other dentists. But I feel I give better service. So my billing practices are justified.

6) The Directory of International Communities lists more than 200 groups across the country organized around a variety of purposes, including environmentally aware living.

7) Once upon a time Washington, DC, passed an ordinance prohibiting private ownership of firearms. After that, Washington's murder rate shot up 121 percent. Bans on firearms are clearly counterproductive.

8) Computers will never be able to converse intelligently through speech. A simple example proves this. The sentences "How do you recognize speech?" and "How do you wreck a nice beach?" have

different meanings, but they sounds similar enough that a computer could not distinguish between the two.

9) Like short term memory, long term memory retains information that is encoded in terms of sense modality and in terms of links with information that was learned earlier.

10) Then: A Miami man gets thirty days in the stockade for wearing a flag patch on the seat of his trousers. Now: Miami department stores sell boxer trunks made up to look like an American flag. Times have changed.

Exercise 1-5

Instructions: create your own premise to turn the following into arguments.

1)

1. _____
It is clear that Smith deserved to be promoted to a higher rank.

2)

1. _____
So we can see that Jones probably ate all the cheese and left the wrapper out on the counter.

3)

1. _____
Of course she was talking about me behind my back.

4)

1. _____
Obviously, having a highly traumatic experience can lead to drug addiction.

Exercise 1-6

Instructions: If choices are provided, determine which choice best represents the **issue** in the passage. If no choices are provided, determine the issue in the passage.

1) Let me tell you why Hank ought not to take that math course. First, it's too hard, and he'll probably flunk it. Second, he's going to spend the whole term in a state of frustration. Third, he'll probably get depressed and do poorly in all the rest of his courses.

Possible Issues:

- a. Whether Hank ought to take the math course.
- b. Whether Hank would flunk the math course.
- c. Whether Hank will spend the whole term in a state of frustration.
- d. Whether Hank will get depressed and do poorly in all the rest of his courses.

2) The country has cut the library budget for salaried library workers, and there will not be enough volunteers to make up for the lack of paid workers. Therefore, the library will have to be open for fewer hours.

Possible Issues:

- a. Whether the library will have to be open fewer hours next year.
- b. Whether there will be enough volunteers to make up for the lack of paid workers.

3) It's clear that the mainstream media have lost interest in classical music. For example, the NBC network used to have its own classical orchestra conducted by Arturo Toscanini, but no such orchestra exists now. One newspaper, the no-longer-existent *Washington Star*, used to have 13 classical music reviewers; that's

more than twice as many as the *New York Times* has now. H. L. Mencken and other columnists used to devote considerable space to classical music; nowadays, you almost never see it mentioned in a major column.

Possible Issues:

- a. Whether popular taste has turned away from classical music.
- b. Whether newspapers are employing fewer writers on classical music.
- c. Whether the mainstream media have lost interest in classical music.

4) The defeat of the school voucher initiative was a bad thing for the country because now public schools won't have any incentive to clean up their act. Furthermore, the defeat perpetuates the private-school-for-the-rich, public-school-for-the-poor syndrome.

5) Whatever we believe, we find to be reasonable. Whatever we don't believe, we do not find reasonable. Reason is, therefore, the principle by which our beliefs should be regulated.

6) In pre-civil war Spain, the influence of the Catholic Church must have been much stronger on women than on men. You can determine this by looking at the number of religious communities, such as monasteries, nunneries, and so forth. A total of about 5,000 such communities existed in 1931: 4,000 of them were female, whereas only 1,000 of them were male. This proves my point about the Church's influence on the sexes.

Possible Issues:

- a. Whether the Catholic Church's influence was stronger on women than on men in pre-civil war Spain.

- b. whether the speaker's statistics really prove his point about the Church's influence.
- c. whether the figures about religious communities really have anything to do with the overall influence of the Catholic Church in Spain.

7) *Breaking Bad* might have been a good show without all the profanity. But without the profanity, it wouldn't have been believable. Those people just talk that way. If you have them speaking Shakespearean English, nobody will pay attention. Yes, like many programs with offensive features—whether it's bad language, sex, or whatever—it will never appeal to the squeamish.

Possible Issues:

- a. Whether movies with offensive features can appeal to the squeamish.
- b. Whether *Breaking Bad* would have been entertaining without the bad language.
- c. Whether *Breaking Bad* would have been believable without the bad language.
- d. Whether believable programs must always have offensive features.

8) From the way it tastes, you might think French roast has more caffeine in it than regular coffee, but it has less. The darker the roast, the less caffeine there is in it. I read this in *Consumer Reports*.

9) In Miami-Dade county, Florida, schools superintendent Rudy Crew was inundated with complaints after a police officer used a stun gun on a six-year-old student. As a result, Crew asked the Miami-Dade police to ban the use of guns on elementary school children. Crew did the right thing. More than 100 deaths have been linked to tasers.

10) The winner of this year's spelling bee is a straight-A student whose favorite subject is science, which isn't surprising, since students interested in science learn to pay attention to details.