

Chapter 4 Classwork

Exercise 4-7

Instructions: Identify which of the following are **arguments by analogy**, and which are only analogies.

1) Mattie's mind is a cave: deep, dark, and full of bats.

2) Writing history is like telling a story in that it relates events that are connected in linear time. So writing history must have a narrative structure.

3) A concept is like a file folder in which we store information about a category of objects.

4) The planet has a fever. If your baby has a fever you go to the doctor. If the doctor says you need to intervene here, you don't say, "I read a science-fiction novel that says it's not a problem." You take action. Just as we should take action to save our planet.

5) Even in his final years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long it had been rusted shut.

Exercise 4-8

Instructions: Consider each pair of **arguments by analogy**, and determine which one is stronger than the other.

1)

a. Angelica is pretty good at conducting experiments in her high school biology classes. She will probably do well in college.

b. Angelica is pretty good at conducting experiments in her high school biology classes. She will probably do well working in the lab at the local university.

2)

a. Living in capitalist society is kind of like playing a role playing video game. In both, you have to manage your finances well.

b. Living in a capitalist society is kind of like playing a racing video game. In both, you have to manage your finances well.

Exercise 4-9

Instructions: Evaluate the following **arguments by analogy** as relatively strong or weak. Answers may differ from student to student, though not always.

1) I believe in reincarnation because it doesn't make sense that God would give us only one chance at life. You get more chances than that in Baseball!

2) Psychotherapies that promise instant happiness are comparable to "get rich quick" schemes in the economic realm and therefore cannot be expected to work.

3) An experiment is a question put to nature and, like a lawyer cross-examining a witness, the scientist needs to know what answer he expects.

4) Like John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama is young, personable, and a Democrat. So, like Kennedy, he will be remembered by history.

Exercise 4-10

Instructions: Determine which of the following are **statistical syllogisms**, and which are **sample arguments**.

1) The food at *Tacos El Gordo* is amazing. Hubert has some tacos from the place. I bet those tacos are delicious!

2) Alcohol consumption is at an all-time high at colleges nationwide. A recent survey conducted by Columbia University found that of 300 people surveyed, 90 percent drink on a regular basis.

3) Professor Smith found that 85 percent of respondents believe that President Bush failed the American people with respect to his handling of the Iraq War. That must be how the American people really feel.

4) Just about everyone here doesn't want to hear you. Tiffany is here, and it is clear that she isn't listening.

5) I don't like this class. Probably everyone else feels the same way.

Exercise 4-11

Instructions: Complete the **statistical syllogism** by providing the appropriate claim.

1)

1. _____

2. The teacher is an idiot.

∴ Don't take his class.

2)

1. Most politicians lie.
2. Rand Paul and Hilary Clinton are politicians.

∴ _____

3)

1. _____
 2. Serena dresses pretty well.
- ∴ She's probably rich.

4)

1. Most sociologists love to work with data.
 2. _____
- ∴ Jamison loves to work with data.

Exercise 4-12

Instructions: Determine the sample, population, and attribute of interest in the following **sample arguments**.

1) I never saw a frost after March. I don't think it can occur this close to the coast.

2) After the first assessment, I knew I'd do well in this class.

3) The internet connection here is weak. Try another computer you say? I already tried three.

4) *The Office* is the greatest show! I binge watched the first season last night, and I can't wait to watch the rest.

5) I get lots of dropped calls in my apartment, and I have T-Mobile. It's probably the same everywhere.