



Developing consistent arguments

1. The component parts

- 1 Are my premises purely **factual**?
- 2 Are there **value judgements** that I haven't revealed?
- 3 Are there **concepts** about which I should ask, 'But what do I mean by that?'?
- 4 Have I made clear all my premises? Does my argument rely on **suppressed premises**?

2. The connections

Qualifiers: is the strength of my conclusion equal to the strength of my premises?

Distributing our terms: are the terms of my argument distributed in a way that will allow me to draw a conclusion? Is my generalisation a universal or partial claim?

Processing our terms: do they mean more or less than they actually do? Do I conclude more or less than my premises will allow?

Conversion: do I draw conclusions that are not justified by interchanging the subject and the complement of a sentence when I shouldn't?

Obversion: do I draw conclusions that are not justified by making a mistake changing from the affirmative to the negative form?

Hypothetical propositions: have I denied the antecedent or affirmed the consequent?