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| **Argument/Syllogism** |
| Proper: state two premises, then conclusion should follow (follows all 7 rules)  Common: state the conclusion first, often skips a premise and only states one |

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| **Argument Analysis** | **5 Main Parts of an Argument** |
| Author  Relevant info  Main point  Evidence  Assumptions  Reasoning | 1. Assertion/thesis 2. Evidence 3. Reasoning 4. Assumptions 5. Values |

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| Argument | Presenting a conclusion and defending it with reasons |
| Case | A set of arguments |
| Assertion | Statement, conclusion, main point, or claim concerning an issue, person, or idea |
| Evidence | The information a person uses to support assertions |

**Types of Reasoning**

Cause and Effect

**What:** X makes Y happen

**Cue words:** caused, lead to, forced, because, brought on, resulted in, reason for

**Evaluate:**

* Reasonable connection?
* Other possible causes?
* Important previous causes?

**Fallacies:**

* Single Cause
* Preceding event as a cause
* Correlation as a cause
* False scenario

Comparison

**What:** draws comparisons between two cases

**Two kinds:**

1. Alike comparison: something alike in some ways must be alike in other ways
2. Difference comparison: two cases, have something different, so x must be true

**Cue words:** like, similar to, same as, greater/less than, better/worse than, increased/decreased

Generalization

**What:** generalizing

**Two kinds:**

1. Definitional: no/yes \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_
2. Statistical: what is true for some of the group is true for all of the group
   1. Hard generalizations (universal)
   2. Soft generalizations (particular)

**Cue words:** all, none, some, most, a few, a majority, or plural nouns

**Evaluate:**

* How large is sample?
* How representative is sample? (Variety, or all the same group?)

**Fallacies:**

* Hasty generalization
* Composition and division (stereotyping)
* Special Pleading

By Proof

**What:** statement is made and evidence that supports it is given

**Evaluate:**

* Evidence proves the point being argued?
* Examples pertinent to the argument?
* Is the person an expert on the topic?
* Do other authorities agree with the conclusion?

**Fallacies:**

* Irrelevant proof
* Negative proof (no conclusion from two negative premises)
* Prevalent proof
* Numbers
* Appeal to authority
* Appeal to the golden mean

By Debate

**What:** presents two sides and then proves the other interpretation wrong; puts interpretation into context

**Cue words:** others believe/say, the traditional view is, other views are wrong because, other interpretations, other viewpoints are

**Evaluate:**

* Have all reasonable alternatives been considered?
* All possibilities eliminated?
* Author attacking views in a fair way?
* What would attacked authors respond?

**Fallacies:**

* Either-or
* Attacking arguer (ad hominem)
* Straw man

Assumption

**What:** ideas/opinions arguer takes for granted

**Two kinds:**

1. Stated
2. Unstated (dangerous)

**Unstated:**

1. General
   1. Part of the whole argument, infinite number
2. Specific
   1. Specific to one premise (which is usually missing)

**Ask:** what is true for the conclusion to be true?

**Evaluate:** is the assumption correct?

Values

**What:** conditions a person making an argument believes are important/worthwhile/good

**Cue words:** good, bad, right, wrong, justified, should, should not

**Evaluate:**

1. Separate argument into facts and values
2. Rephrase the values into general terms
3. Is the value statement right in all circumstances? What if everyone valued this? Would you want the value applied to you?