

# The Craft of Argument

## Introduction

The The Craft of Argument is an introduction to argumentation that focuses on the aims, or purposes, of argument: to inquire, to convince, to persuade, and to mediate. This focus provides rhetorical context that helps students write, as well as read, arguments.

The book is divided into ten chapters. The first chapter introduces the nature of argument, including the different types of arguments, the structure of an argument, the elements of an argument, and evaluating arguments. The second chapter discusses the aims of argument, including the different purposes that arguments can serve.

The third chapter examines the fallacies of argument, which are errors in reasoning that can weaken or

invalidate an argument. The fourth chapter introduces the Toulmin model of argument, which is a formal model of argumentation that can be used to analyze and evaluate arguments.

The fifth chapter discusses the Rogerian model of argument, which is a non-adversarial model of argumentation that focuses on finding common ground and building consensus. The sixth chapter examines the Socratic method of argument, which is a method of argumentation that uses questions and answers to explore and challenge ideas.

The seventh chapter introduces the Aristotelian model of argument, which is a formal model of argumentation that is based on the syllogism. The eighth chapter discusses the feminist model of argument, which is a model of argumentation that focuses on the experiences and perspectives of women.

The ninth chapter examines the cultural model of argument, which is a model of argumentation that

takes into account the different cultural contexts in which arguments can occur. The tenth chapter discusses the ethical dimensions of argument, including the ethics of argument, the virtues of argument, the vices of argument, the responsibilities of argument, and the consequences of argument.

The The Craft of Argument is a comprehensive introduction to argumentation that is suitable for students and scholars alike. The book provides a clear and concise overview of the different theories of argumentation, and it offers a wealth of examples and exercises to help readers develop their argumentation skills.

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The The Craft of Argument is an essential resource for anyone who wants to improve their argumentation skills. The book provides a clear and concise overview of the different theories of argumentation, and it offers a wealth of examples and exercises to help readers develop their argumentation skills.

# Chapter 1: The Nature of Argument

## What is an argument

An argument is a statement or group of statements that is intended to convince someone of something. Arguments can be used to persuade someone to believe a particular claim, to take a particular action, or to change their mind about something.

Arguments are typically made up of two main parts: the premises and the conclusion. The premises are the statements that support the conclusion. The conclusion is the statement that the arguer is trying to prove.

For example, the following is an argument:

- **Premise 1:** All men are mortal.
- **Premise 2:** Socrates is a man.
- **Conclusion:** Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

The premises of this argument are "All men are mortal" and "Socrates is a man." The conclusion of the argument is "Therefore, Socrates is mortal."

Arguments can be either deductive or inductive. Deductive arguments are arguments in which the conclusion is guaranteed to be true if the premises are true. Inductive arguments are arguments in which the conclusion is not guaranteed to be true, but is instead supported by the evidence.

The argument about Socrates given above is a deductive argument. If the premises are true, then the conclusion must also be true. This is because the conclusion is a logical consequence of the premises.

Not all arguments are as clear-cut as the example above. In many cases, the premises of an argument may be debatable or the evidence supporting the conclusion may be incomplete. However, even in these cases, arguments can be used to persuade people to change their minds or to take a particular action.

# Chapter 1: The Nature of Argument

## The different types of arguments

Arguments can be classified into different types based on their purpose, structure, and content. Some of the most common types of arguments include:

- **Deductive arguments:** Deductive arguments are arguments in which the premises logically guarantee the conclusion. In other words, if the premises are true, then the conclusion must also be true. Deductive arguments are often used in mathematics and science, where the goal is to prove a theorem or hypothesis.
- **Inductive arguments:** Inductive arguments are arguments in which the premises provide evidence for the conclusion, but they do not logically guarantee it. In other words, the conclusion may be true even if the premises are true. Inductive arguments are often used in

everyday life, where we make decisions based on the evidence that we have available.

- **Abductive arguments:** Abductive arguments are arguments in which the premises provide a possible explanation for the conclusion. In other words, the conclusion is the most likely explanation for the premises, but it is not certain. Abductive arguments are often used in detective work and scientific research, where the goal is to find the most likely explanation for a set of observations.
- **Analogical arguments:** Analogical arguments are arguments in which the premises compare two similar things and conclude that they are also similar in some other way. In other words, the conclusion is based on the assumption that the two things are similar in all relevant respects. Analogical arguments are often used in law and politics, where the goal is to persuade people to accept a new idea or policy by

comparing it to something that they already accept.

- **Causal arguments:** Causal arguments are arguments in which the premises claim that one event caused another event. In other words, the conclusion is that the first event led to the second event. Causal arguments are often used in science and history, where the goal is to explain why things happen.

These are just a few of the many different types of arguments that exist. Each type of argument has its own strengths and weaknesses, and it is important to choose the right type of argument for the situation.

# Chapter 1: The Nature of Argument

## The structure of an argument

An argument is a set of statements that is intended to persuade someone to accept a conclusion. The conclusion is the main point that the arguer is trying to make, and the premises are the reasons that the arguer gives to support the conclusion.

The structure of an argument can be represented as follows:

Premise 1  
Premise 2  
Premise n  
Conclusion

The premises are typically arranged in a logical order, with each premise supporting the next premise until the final premise supports the conclusion. The conclusion is typically the last statement in the

argument, and it is the most important statement because it is the point that the arguer is trying to make.

The structure of an argument is important because it helps the reader to understand the relationship between the premises and the conclusion. A well-structured argument will be easy to follow and understand, and it will be more likely to persuade the reader to accept the conclusion.

Here is an example of a well-structured argument:

Premise 1: All men are mortal.

Premise 2: Socrates is a man.

Conclusion: Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

This argument is well-structured because the premises are arranged in a logical order, and the conclusion follows logically from the premises. The reader can easily see that if the premises are true, then the conclusion must also be true.

Here is an example of a poorly structured argument:

Premise 1: I think that the death penalty is wrong.

Premise 2: The death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment.

Conclusion: Therefore, the death penalty should be abolished.

This argument is poorly structured because the premises are not arranged in a logical order, and the conclusion does not follow logically from the premises. The reader cannot see how the premises support the conclusion, and the argument is therefore less likely to be persuasive.

The structure of an argument is an important factor in determining the strength of the argument. A well-structured argument will be more likely to persuade the reader to accept the conclusion than a poorly structured argument.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

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