Argument Analysis
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Suppose you encounter a written or spoken passage. Ask yourself the following question:

Is the author of the passage (i.e., the writer or speaker) claiming that a particular proposition follows from one or more other propositions? (In other words, is the author arguing?)

Yes

Is the author’s claim one of necessity, or merely probability? (In other words, is the argument deductive or inductive?)

Necessity

Is the claim true? (In other words, does the conclusion follow necessarily from the premise(s), as claimed?)

Yes

The argument is valid. (In other words, the argument is truth-preserving.) Are all the premises true?

Yes

The argument is sound.

No

The argument is unsound.

No

The argument is invalid. (In other words, the argument is not truth-preserving.)

Probability


1 An argument, to a philosopher, is a group of (two or more) propositions, one of which (the conclusion) is claimed (by the arguer) to follow from the other or others (the premises).

2 In a deductive argument, the arguer claims that the conclusion follows necessarily from the premises. In an inductive argument, the arguer claims that the conclusion follows probably, but not necessarily, from the premises.