Argument Terminology

Argument has its own special terminology. Here are some of the terms to become familiar with in order to analyze arguments.

- Terms
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Terms

- **argue**: to make a case for a judgment or opinion
- **persuade**: to bring about a desired response in an audience
- **convince**: to persuade logically through argument
- **prove**: to establish the truth of something

- **argument**: a reasoned consideration of an idea in the pursuit of understanding and truth, usually with the further aim of persuasion
- **persuasion**: the act of winning over someone to a course of action by reasoning or inducement
- **inquiry**: a systematic investigation, often of a matter of public interest

- **true**: actually or theoretically verifiable (said of a statement)
- **valid**: logically structured (said of an argument)

- **deductive**: reasoning process in which conclusions are drawn out of premises
- **inductive**: reasoning process in which conclusions move beyond premises

- **syllogism**: a model for analyzing the relationships among the parts of an argument in order to determine whether or not the argument is logically constructed
- **enthymeme**: an argument in which a premise or the conclusion is implied, not stated explicitly. It is the usual form deductive argument takes

- **fact**: something that can be verified by observation or personal experience
- **inference**: a conclusion, a deduction, or an interpretation based upon a fact
- **value judgment**: an assertion which involves an element of personal judgment

- **assumption**: an unstated belief accepted as true without proof, which governs our thinking and behavior
- **assertion**: a confident, positive statement, often forceful or aggressive
- **implication**: something suggested but not directly stated by an assertion, which the listener infers as a consequence

- **fallacy**: a logical error in reasoning
- **lie**: an untrue statement

- **propaganda**: ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further a cause or to damage an opposing cause

- **premise**: a supporting statement giving evidence or reason
- **conclusion**: an assertion supported by premises
- **logical indicator**: a word or phrase to indicate that an argument is underway

- **absolute truth**: a truth which is always demonstrable in the physical world (scientific, largely based upon physical evidence)
- **contingent truth**: a truth which is true for this time, this place, under these circumstances, given these assumptions (rhetorical, based largely upon reasons)

See Also

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External Links