

Take home assignment #1  
Due 9/13/16

**Identify the conclusion and premises in each of the following arguments by underlining (or circling) the conclusion:**

1. This is a standard deck of playing cards. So if I draw a card at random from it, that card will be a king.
2. Texans must all wear cowboy boots. I went to Houston last Thursday and everyone I saw on the street had boots on.
3. Everyone who has ever tried to climb the Matterhorn has experienced terror at some stage of the ascent. Just you wait, Keisha. Sooner or later on your climb you are going to be afraid.
4. Russell's chicken has been fed every morning since she was a chick. She's gotten used to this routine and so comes to the gate when Russell comes to the coop in the morning. She's really fat from all this eating, and Russell plans to slaughter her when she's nice and plump. She shouldn't come to the gate today because she's probably going to get slaughtered.
5. If the Staples Center is in Los Angeles, then Mt. Kilimanjaro is green. The Staples Center is in Los Angeles. It follows that Mt. Kilimanjaro is green.

**Define the following terms in 1 sentence:**

1. valid argument:
2. invalid argument:
3. sound argument:
4. unsound argument:

**Complete the following arguments by filling in the missing premise or conclusion:**

1. All capitalists believe in a free-market economy. So, all capitalists favor global trade.

6. The lamp does not work, even though it is plugged in. The light bulb must be burned out.

10. That new blockbuster movie must be doing very well at the box office. I went to see it the other night when it opened and the theater was jam-packed.

**Determine whether the following arguments are best interpreted as being inductive or deductive:**

1. The Dodgers, Yankees, and Mariners are all MLB teams. It must be the case that everyone who plays baseball plays for the MLB.

- a. inductive
- b. deductive

2. If you see a rose, it's pink. If you see a sunflower, it's not pink. Therefore, if you see a sunflower, it's not a rose.

- a. inductive
- b. deductive

3. If the 405 runs east and west, then the 405 runs through Los Angeles. But the 405 does not run east and west. Therefore, the 405 does not run through Los Angeles.

- a. inductive
- b. deductive

4. Anyone who takes Winter Intercession or Summer classes is either really motivated or absolutely nuts. Many people who are either motivated or absolutely nuts are indistinguishable from workaholics. So, anyone who takes Winter Intercession or Summer classes is indistinguishable from a workaholic.

- a. inductive
- b. deductive

**Are the following inductive arguments strong or weak?**

1. Look at these footprints in the mud by the window. Someone must have been spying on us last night.

a. strong

b. weak

2. This fish looks very similar to a trout or a salmon. Since those fish are tasty, this one must be tasty, too.

a. strong

b.weak

3. This is a standard deck of playing cards. So if I draw a card at random from it, that card will be a king.

a. strong

b. weak

4. This is a standard deck of playing cards. So if I draw a card at random from it, fifty-one cards will remain.

a. strong

b. weak

5. When a cook can't recall the ingredients in a recipe, it is appropriate that she refresh her memory by consulting the recipe book. Similarly, when a student can't recall the answers during a final exam, it is appropriate that she refresh her memory by consulting her textbook.

a. strong

b.weak

**Determine whether the following arguments are best interpreted as being inductive or deductive, and then evaluate it in terms of validity/invalidity and strength/weakness. Assume the premises are true.**

1. After several weeks of daily conditioning, Spike has got to the point where he begins to salivate moments after hearing the bell. The bell has just rung again, so just wait. He will start to salivate in seconds.

a. Deductive/Valid

b. Deductive/Invalid

c. Inductive/Strong

d. Inductive/Weak

2. If Elvis Presley was a rock star, then he played to large crowds. Elvis Presley was a rock star.

Therefore, Elvis Presley played to large crowds.

- a. Deductive/Valid
- b. Deductive/Invalid
- c. Inductive/Strong
- d. d. Inductive/Weak

3. Hurricane Jean is heading for a densely populated area of the Florida coast. It's powerful, just like both Ivan and Frances were, and they did lots of damage to densely populated areas. As a result, Jean is bound to do a lot of damage, too, when it hits the Florida coast.

- a. Deductive/Valid
- b. Deductive/Invalid
- c. Inductive/Strong
- d. d. Inductive/Weak

4. It's been raining all week, and the weatherman sees no end in sight, so I think we should cancel our patio party tomorrow.

- a. Deductive/Valid
- b. Inductive/Strong
- c. Deductive/Invalid
- d. d. Inductive/Weak

5. "Not in my wildest dreams do I imagine that anyone in the White House or Pentagon ordered that detainees in Abu Ghurayb prison be led around on leashes and forced to wear women's underwear on their heads. But we know that White House lawyers wrote a memo arguing that torture was an acceptable tactic in certain situations. Apparently that attitude worked its way down to the Americans actually in charge of Abu Ghurayb, and those working there." (Rob Elder, "Bomb is ticking; do you OK torture?" from the San Jose *Mercury News*, 08/24/04)

- a. Deductive/Valid
- b. Deductive/Invalid
- c. Inductive/Strong
- d. Inductive/Weak