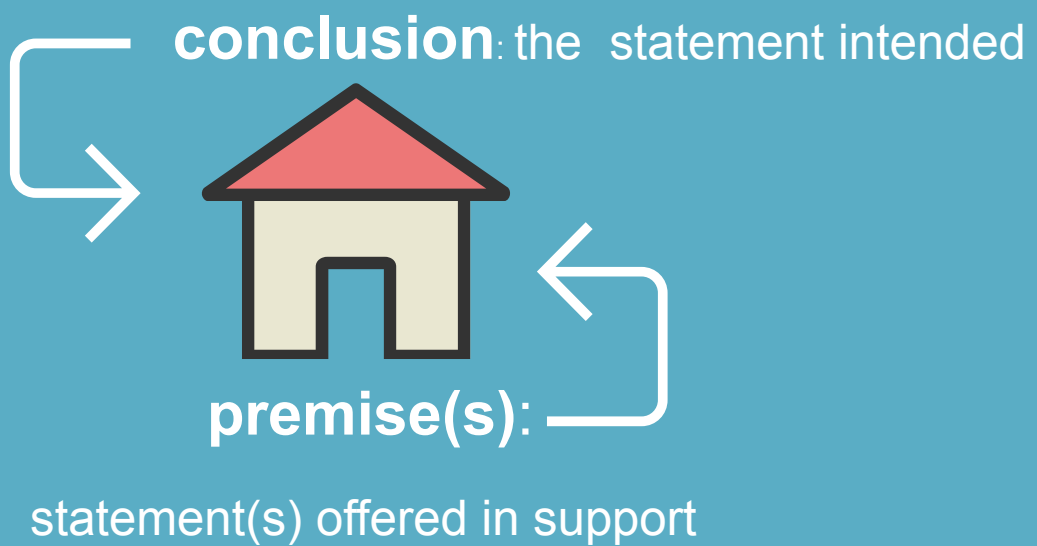


# ARGUMENTS

Arguments are composed of one or more premises and a conclusion.



An argument, accordingly, is a group of statements intended to prove a conclusion.

In identifying premises and conclusions, we are often helped by indicator words.

## 1. Premise Indicators

- ✓ since
- ✓ because
- ✓ for
- ✓ given that
- ✓ seeing that
- ✓ considering that
- ✓ inasmuch as
- ✓ as

## 2. Conclusion Indicators

- ✓ therefore
- ✓ thus
- ✓ hence
- ✓ consequently
- ✓ so
- ✓ accordingly
- ✓ it follows that
- ✓ for this reason

## 3. Tips on Finding Conclusions

- ✗ reports
- ✗ unsupported assertions
- ✗ conditional statements
- ✗ Illustrations
- ✗ Explanations

- 👍 Find the main issue and ask what position the writer is taking
- 👍 Look at the beginning or end of the passage
- 👍 What is the writer trying to prove - that will be the conclusion!
- 👍 Try putting the word "therefore" before one of the statements
- 👍 Try the "because" trick: The writer believes \_\_\_\_\_ (conclusion) because \_\_\_\_\_ (premise).

## 4. What is not an Argument

