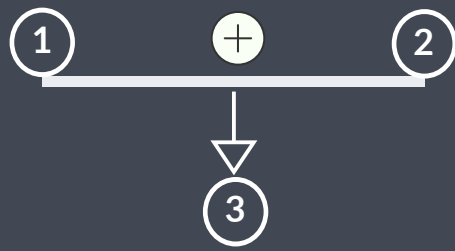


Diagramming Arguments



To analyze an argument means to break it down into its various parts to see clearly what conclusion is defended and on what grounds.

Diagramming Short Arguments

circle premises & conclusions

1

Example:

The death penalty should be abolished because it's racially discriminatory, there's no evidence that it's more effective deterrent than life imprisonment, and innocent people may be executed by mistake.

Example:

(1) The death penalty should be abolished because (2) it's racially discriminatory, (3) there's no evidence that it's more effective deterrent than life imprisonment, and (4) innocent people may be executed by mistake.

2

number the statements consecutively

arrange the numbers

3

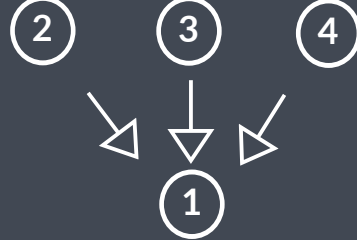


4

omit irrelevant statements

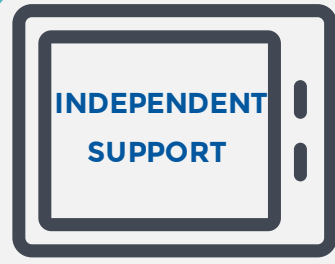
show the relationships

5



1

When the support provided is not weakened by the removal of any other premise in the argument.



When the support offered in a premise works conjointly with another premise to support the conclusion.

2

05 Tips

01



Find the main conclusion first

02



Find the premise and conclusion indicators

03



Sentences with AND often contain more than one statement

04



Treat If-Thens as single statements

05



Do not diagram irrelevant, redundant, or non-statements

