

Part I Assignments

Assignment #1: Exercise 1-1 (2,3,5,6,11)

Exercise 1-1 (2,3,5,6,11)

Directions: Pick the best answer

2. T/F A claim is what you use to state an opinion or a belief.
3. T/F Critical Thinking consists in attacking other people's ideas.
5. T/F When a question has been asked, an issue has been raised.
6. T/F All arguments have a premise.
11. All factual claims are true.

Assignment #2: Exercise 1-3 (3,5,12), Exercise 1-4 (5,6)

Exercise 1-3 (3,5,12)

Directions: Which of the following claims are objective?

3. Staring at the sun will damage your eyes.
5. Yellow is Jennifer's favorite color.
12. Sarah Palin looks very presidential to me.

Exercise 1-4 (5,6)

Directions: Which of the following claims are subjective?

5. There is life on Mars
6. Golf is a waste of time.

Assignment #3: Exercise 1-5 (2,5), Exercise 1-6 (9), Exercise 1-7 (2,5)

Exercise 1-5 (2,5)

Directions: State whether an argument is present or not.

2. Hey there, Marco!-don't go giving that cat top sirloin. What's the matter with you, you got no brains at all?
5. "Is the author really entitled to assert that there is a degree of unity among these essays which makes this a book rather than a congeries? I am inclined to say that he is justified in this claim, but articulating this justification is a somewhat complex task."

Exercise 1-6 (9)

Directions: State whether an argument is present or not.

9. June 1970: A Miami man gets thirty days in the stockade for wearing a flag patch on the seat of his trousers.
March 2004: Miami department stores are selling boxer trunks made up to look like an American flag. Times have changed.

Exercise 1-7 (2,5)

Directions: Select the issue in the passage.

2. The county has cut the library budget for salaried library workers, and there will not be enough volunteers to make up for the lack of paid workers. Therefore, the library will have to be open fewer hours next year.
 - a. Whether the library will have to be open fewer hours next year
 - b. Whether there will be enough volunteers to make up for the lack of paid workers
5. This year's National Football League draft lists a large number of quarterbacks among its highest-ranking candidates. Furthermore, quite a number of teams do not have first-class quarterbacks. It's therefore likely that an unusually large number of quarterbacks will be drafted early in this year's draft.
 - a) whether teams without first-class quarterbacks will choose quarterbacks in the draft
 - b) whether this year's NFL draft includes a large number of quarterbacks
 - c) whether an unusually large number of quarterbacks will be drafted early in this year's draft

Assignment #4

Exercise 3-2 (2,3,5,6,11)

Directions: Which of each set of claims is more precise (i.e. suffers from the least vagueness, ambiguity or generality)?.

2. a. The window served its purpose.
b. The window served as an escape hatch.
3. a. Throughout their marriage, Alfredo served her dinner.
b. Throughout their marriage, Alfredo served her well.
5. a. These scales will turn on the weight of a hair.
b. This car will turn on a dime.
6. a. Fenner's boss turned vicious.
b. Fenner's boss turned out to be forty-seven.
11. a. The glass is full to the brim.
b. Mrs. Couch has a rather full figure.

Assignment #5

Exercise 3-8

Directions: Determine which of the italicized expressions are more likely to refer to the members of the class taken individually or as a group.

Determine which of the italicized expressions are ambiguous, which are more likely to refer to members of the class taken as a group, and which are more likely to refer to the members of the class taken individually.

2. *Professors at the university* make millions of dollars a year.
3. *Our amplifiers* can be heard all across the country.
5. *Cowboys* die with their boots on.
6. The *angles of a triangle* add up to 180 degrees.
8. On our airline, *passengers* have their choice of three different meals.

Assignment #6

Exercise 4-10

Directions: For each question decide which is the best answer.

1. "SPACE ALIEN GRAVEYARD FOUND! Scientists who found an extraterrestrial cemetery in central Africa say the graveyard is at least 500 years old! 'There must be 200 bodies buried there and not a single one of them is human,' Dr. Hugo Schild, the Swiss anthropologist, told reporters." What is the appropriate reaction to this report in the *Weekly World News*?
 - a. It's probably true.
 - b. It almost certainly is true.
 - c. We really need more information to form any judgment at all.
 - d. None of these.

4. On Thanksgiving Day 1990, an image said by some to resemble the Virgin Mary was observed in a stained glass window of St. Dominic's Church in Colfax, California. A physicist asked to investigate said the image was caused by sunlight shining through the window and reflecting from a newly installed hanging light fixture. Others said the image was a miracle. Whose explanation is more likely true?
 - a. The physicist's
 - b. The others'
 - c. More information is needed before we can decide which explanation is more likely.

5. It is late at night around the campfire when the campers hear awful grunting noises in the woods around them. They run for their lives! Two campers, after returning the next day, tell others they found huge footprints around the campfire. They are convinced they were attacked by Bigfoot. Which explanation is more likely true?
 - a. The campers heard Bigfoot.
 - b. The campers heard some animal and are pushing the Bigfoot explanation to avoid being thought of as chickens, or are just making the story up for unknown reasons.
 - c. Given this information, we can't tell which explanation is more likely.

6. Megan's aunt says she saw a flying saucer. "I don't tell people about this," Auntie says, "because they'll think I'm making it up. But this really happened. I saw this strange light, and this, well, it wasn't a saucer, exactly, but it was round and big, and it came down and hovered just over my back fence, and my two dogs began whimpering. And then it just, whoosh! It just vanished."

Megan knows her aunt, and Megan knows she doesn't make up stories.

- A. She should believe her aunt saw a flying saucer.
- B. She should believe her aunt was making the story up.
- C. She should believe that her aunt may well have had some unusual experience, but it was probably not a visitation by extraterrestrial beings.

9. ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Roped to her twin sons for safety, Joni Phelps inched her way to the top of Mount McKinley. The National Park Service says Phelps, 54, apparently is the first blind woman to scale the 20,300-foot peak.

This report is

- A. Probably true
- B. Probably false
- C. Too sketchy; more information is needed before we can judge