

Ankara Üniversitesi Açık Ders Notları

PHI 106 CRITICAL THINKING

TOPIC 6:

Recognizing Arguments:

Arguments can be conveyed in just one sentence or they can extend over an entire book. They can be easy to follow or difficult to follow. They can be trivial or important. They can be full of mistakes or perfect. But one thing is certain—an argument consists of two parts:

1- a claim—some statement of fact or opinion; the point of what's being said; this point is usually called the conclusion.

2- support for the claim—evidence or reasons related to the claim in such a way as to endorse it or make it acceptable; these supporting lines of reasoning are usually called premises.

In a nutshell: argument: premises conclusion

Identifying Implied Conclusions, Unstated Premises:

- not articulate arguments well

- not connect the two (premise-conclusion)

?context

Risk of being misunderstood

Implied conclusions—practice

Unstated premises--- ? assumption/presupposition/hidden assumptions-unknown premises

=unstated(not articulated in the argument as presented)

required to make the argument complete as a premise

?To make assumptions is natural, (if they are warranted)

Necessary? Epistemic regress

If unwarranted-?

If we identify assumptions, we can figure out warranted/unwarranted

Unwarranted assumption leads to unwarranted conclusion

Hidden premises: unexamined premises

If you dont state your premises, someone else will.

Misunderstandings...

Premise----Unstated premise(often connects them)-----conclusion

examples (killing is wrong, we should make profit)

often the missing premise is a generalization (take for granted).

Most assumptions are reality or value assumptions.

Missing premise: what is the person assuming to be true, but not saying? What premise is required to make the argument work?

Standard form

Missing connection:

Which one is premise, which one is conclusion?

premise – connection—conclusion

Circular Arguments:

The premise cannot presume the conclusion.

(From Peg Tittle's Critical Thinking Textbook)