

Ankara Üniversitesi Açık Ders Notları

PHI 106 CRITICAL THINKING

TOPIC 10:

Structure of Arguments:

Convergent, Single:

an argument consists of a premise leading to a conclusion. So the basic structure would be as follows:

premise



conclusion

an argument almost always consists of a set of premises leading to a conclusion. Notice how there's a single line of reasoning converging to a conclusion; hence, we'll call this argument structure a single convergent structure.

conjunction

Convergent, Multiple-separate

When two or more separate lines of reasoning lead to the same conclusion, we have a multiple-separate convergent argument.

Note that the two arguments are independent of each other: if one of them turns out to be a bad argument, you can still accept the conclusion if the other argument is okay. However, you may accept it with less confidence since the overall argument is now weaker, with one less supporting line of reasoning.

disjunction

Convergent, Multiple-linked:

In this case, the multiple lines of reasoning that lead to the single conclusion are linked together—hence, the name multiple-linked convergent structure.

Notice how the two premises are connected with an arrow. That indicates that they are linked, and together they provide support for the conclusion.

conjunction

Note that in the case of multiple-linked convergent arguments, the link is between two arguments, not, as in the case of single convergent arguments, between one premise and another, the other premise usually being a generalization that makes the first premise relevant to the conclusion.

Not only are the premises linked to their accompanying generalization premises, the two arguments. They are dependent on each other.

(From Peg Tittle's Critical Thinking Textbook)