

Ankara Üniversitesi Açık Ders Notları

PHI 106 CRITICAL THINKING

TOPIC 11:

Structure of Arguments:

Divergent:

Another structure involves one premise that leads to two or more different conclusions (rather than two or more premises leading to the same conclusion). This is called a **divergent** argument, and it is perhaps most common when arguing from a single premise to several conclusions that are consequences of that premise.

Although these two examples had one premise leading to two conclusions, keep in mind that there may be *more than* two conclusions following from a single premise.

Multi-structured arguments:

For example, one of the most common compound structures is a serial or chain argument, in which the conclusion of one single convergent argument becomes the premise of a subsequent single convergent argument, and so on.

I'm sick with a bad cold or flu or something.

↓

(Therefore) I'm very tired.

↓

(Therefore) I can't concentrate very well.



Therefore, I won't do as well as I otherwise could on this exam.

You see how the second point (being tired) is both the conclusion of the first point (being sick) and the premise for the next point (not being able to concentrate very well). It can be called a subconclusion; that's why the "Therefore" is put in parentheses. And that point is in turn the conclusion of the preceding point, and the premise for the next point (not doing as well as otherwise probably on the exam).

(From Peg Tittle's Critical Thinking Textbook)