



COM 234 Public Debate Day 4 Lecture

Today's Agenda:

- The Toulmin Model
- Argument Types



Announcements

- Form of Assignments:
 - Make sure to follow the form on the sample. This means including your section number, TA's name, the name of the assignment, etc.
 - While following the form of the sample, you should not use any of the examples used in class.
- Extra credit attempts: E-mail these by 10 a.m. the day before the assignment is due to com234ce@u.washington.edu
- RMC
- Today's extra credit earners



The Toulmin Model

Claim: the proposition that the arguer is supporting

Grounds (or data): the specific evidence or reason used to support the claim (often introduced with the word “because” or “since”; sometimes this is the claim of another argument)

Warrant: the inference that allows you to move from the grounds to the claim (often only implied in the argument)



Syllogism and Toulmin Model Compared

Claim \Leftrightarrow Conclusion

Grounds \Leftrightarrow minor premise

Warrant \Leftrightarrow Major Premise



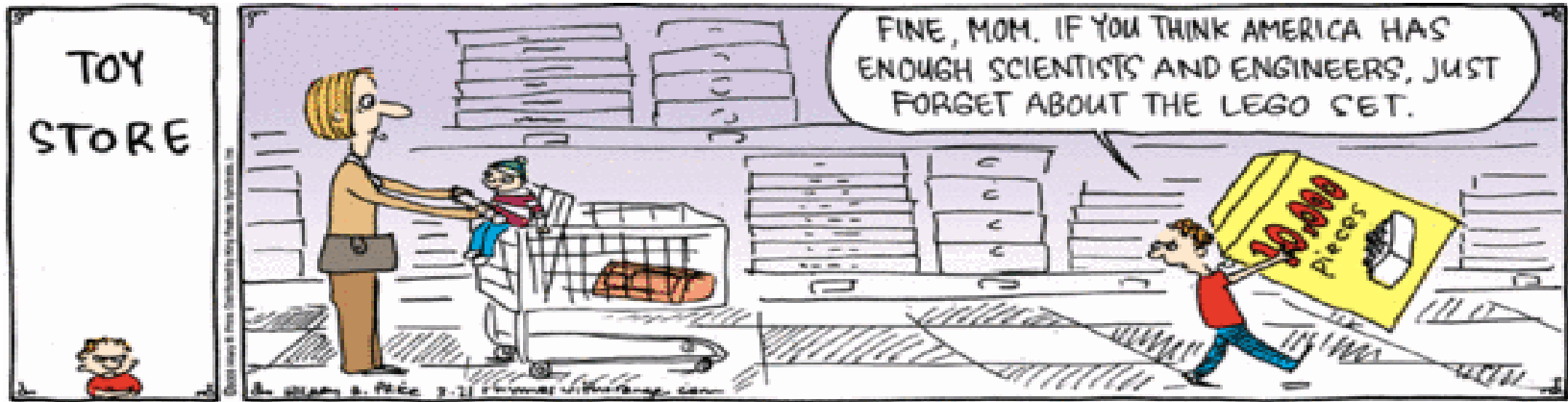
Toulmin Model Diagram

Grounds

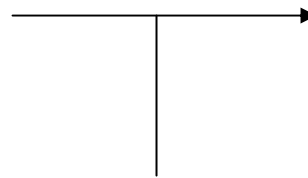


Claim

Warrant



Because you want
me to be a scientist
or engineer



You should buy me
this Lego set

Playing with Legos
will make me a scientist
or engineer



Types of Argument

- argument by example
- argument by analogy
- argument from sign
- argument from cause
- argument from testimony
- argument from narrative



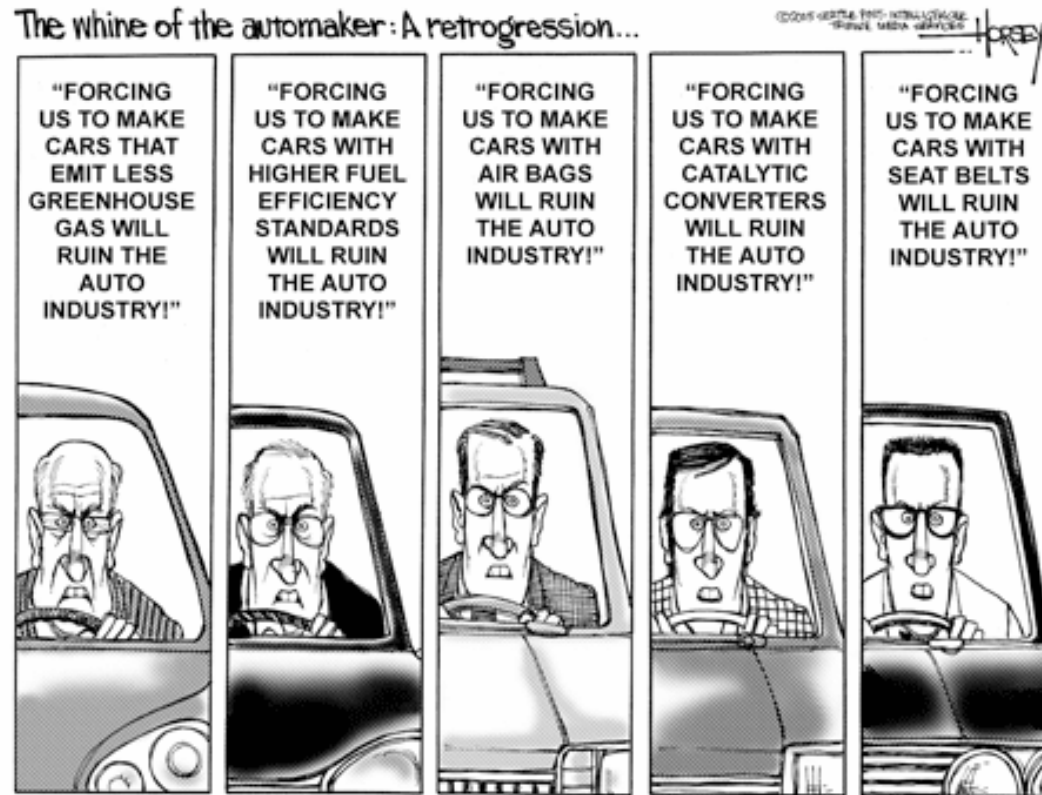
Argument by Example

Inference moves from specific to general or from general to specific

Warrant to this argument usually reads “what is true in this case (or these cases) is true in general” or “what is true in general is true in this case”

Argument by Example

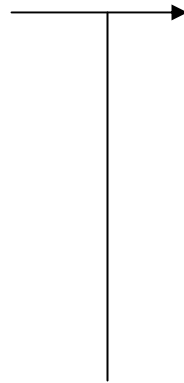
from David Horsey, *Seattle PI*, 15 March 2005.





Horsey Argument by Example Diagrammed

They whined when seat belts, catalytic converters, airbags, fuel efficiency standards, and emission standards were introduced.



Automakers whine that the industry will be ruined whenever legislation is introduced to improve vehicles.

What is true in these cases is true in general.



Argument by Example from David Brooks, "A House Divided, and Strong," *NYT*, 5 April 2005, p. A27.

“Once, Republicans were isolationists. Now most Republicans, according to a New York Times poll, believe the U.S. should try to change dictatorships into democracies when it can. Meanwhile, 78 percent of Democrats believe the U.S. should *not* try to democratize authoritarian regimes.”



Brooks Argument by Example Diagrammed

78% of those polled by the *NYT* who identified as Democrats said the US should not try to democratize authoritarian regimes.

78% of Democrats believe the US should not try to democratize authoritarian regimes.

What is true in these cases is true in general.



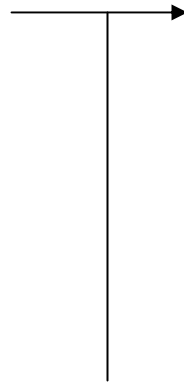
Argument by Example moving from general to specific

Since you're a Democrat, you probably believe the U.S. should not try to democratize authoritarian regimes.



Argument by Example Diagrammed

78% of Democrats
say the US should
not try to
democratize
authoritarian
regimes.



As a Democrat, you
probably believe the US
should not try to
democratize
authoritarian regimes.

What is true in general
is true in this case.



Tests for the Argument by Example

- Are there enough examples to prove the point?
- Are the examples skewed toward one type of thing?
- Are the examples unambiguous?
- Could it be that the connection of general and specific doesn't hold in this case?



Argument by Analogy

Inference compares two similar things, saying that since they are alike in some respects, they are alike in another respect. It can be a figurative analogy or a literal analogy.

Warrant to this argument usually reads “if two things are alike in most respects, they will be alike in this respect too.”

Argument by Analogy (Figurative)

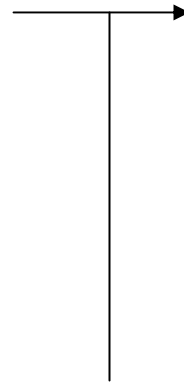
from David Horsey, *Seattle PI*, 15 March 2005.





Argument by Analogy (Figurative) Diagrammed

Texas barbecues create danger to the house by adding fuel to a tremendous fire.



Bush and Delay are creating a dangerous situation that threatens the nation by adding tax cuts to a federal deficit.

If two things are alike in some respects, they'll be alike in this respect.



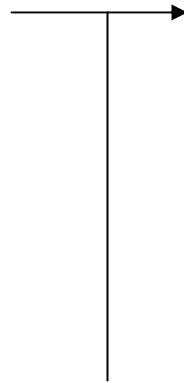
Argument by Analogy from Mike Henderson, "Beltre's Numbers," *Seattle Weekly*, 9-15 March 2005, p. 16.

When one of "the greatest Hall of Fame third basemen," Mike Schmidt, turned 25, he had 36 home runs, 116 RBI, a .282 batting average, and committed 26 errors. New Seattle Mariner third baseman Adrian Beltre, who just turned 25, has better numbers than that. We should expect great things from him.



Argument by Analogy (Literal) Diagrammed

Mike Schmidt did great things as he matured, and his stats were similar to Adrian Beltre's at age 25.



We should expect great things of Adrian Beltre.

If two things are alike in some respects, they'll be alike in this respect.



Tests for the Argument by Analogy

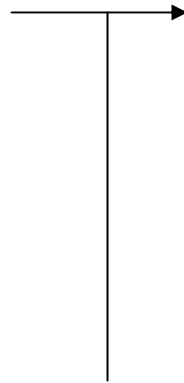
Are the two things really alike, or are there significant differences that might make them unlike in this respect.

Is the analogy appropriate, or does it confuse things? [See Scooter Indictment clip]



The Office video clip

You don't blame drug dealers for passing along illegal drugs.



You shouldn't blame me for forwarding inappropriate and time-wasting e-mails in the office.

If two things are alike in some respects, they'll be alike in this respect.



Argument from Sign

Inference says that one thing is a sign of another. It's usually used in an argument that something *is*.

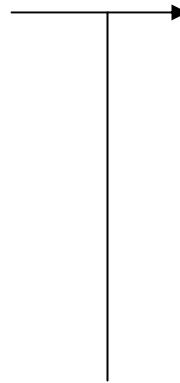
Warrant to this argument is usually in the form: "X is a sign of Y."



Slendertone Argument from Sign Diagrammed

You can see my abdomen muscles move in response to the device.

This exercise device works to define muscles.



Muscle movement is a sign that this exercise device works to define muscles.

Argument from Sign

<http://www.rhymeswithorange.com/> 22 March 2005.

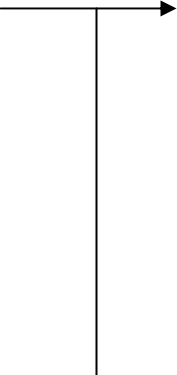




Cartoon Argument from Sign Diagrammed

The Shakespearian actors lost their British accents in the second act.

This play was not very good.

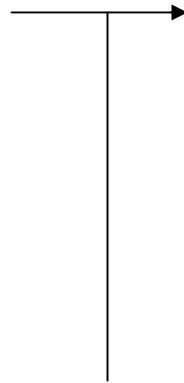


Shifting accents are a sign that a play is not very good.



CSI argument by sign diagrammed

Her blood contained
human chorionic
gonadotropin.



She is definitely with
child.

Human chorionic gonadotropin
is a sign that a woman is with child.



Tests for the Argument by Sign

- Can the sign be found without the thing for which it stands?
- Is an alternative explanation of the meaning of the sign more credible?
- Are there countering signs that indicate that this one sign is false?



Argument from Cause

Inference moves from cause to effect or effect to cause, arguing that something is the direct result of something else.

Warrant to this argument is usually in the form : "X causes Y."



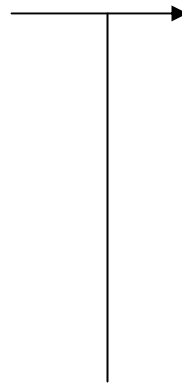
Argument from Cause Overheard

Because so many women are working long hours outside the home, kids today are more violent and dangerous.



Overheard Argument from Cause Diagrammed

Mothers are working
long hours outside
the home.



Kids today are more
violent and dangerous.

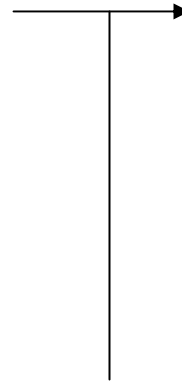
Mothers working long hours
outside the home cause kids
to become violent and dangerous.



Toyota Argument from Cause Diagrammed

The man drove this car.

The man now has higher adrenaline levels.



Driving this car caused the man to increase his adrenaline levels.



Tests for Argument from Cause

- Does one thing really cause the other, or are they merely correlated?
- Is there another larger cause or series of causes that better explains the effect?



Argument from Testimony

Inference reasons that what a trustworthy source says is true

Warrant to this argument usually says
“When a qualified person says something is true, it is true.”



Slendertone Argument from Testimony Diagrammed

Greta Blackburn, the
founding editor for
*Miss Fitness
Magazine*, says so.

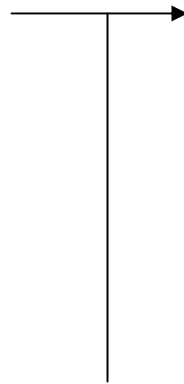
The Slendertone ab
belt really stands out
as effective.

When a qualified person
says something is true,
it is true.



Time to Kill Argument from Testimony Diagrammed

Doctor Roadhieber
has diagnosed Dan
Baker as a paranoid
schizophrenic.



Dan Baker is a
paranoid schizophrenic

When a qualified person
says something is true,
it is true.



Tests for Argument from Testimony

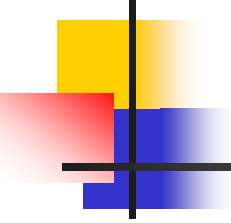
- Are the source qualified to say what is being said? Is she or he in a position to know this information?
- Does the testimony represent what the authority really meant to say?
- Is the source relatively unbiased and recent?



Argument from Narrative

Inference reasons from the meaning or lesson of a story to a claim.

Warrant to this argument usually says
“The moral to a story tells us a greater truth.”



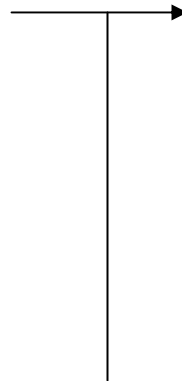
Argument from Narrative from Chris Bayley, "Let's Let Bartell's Run the Department of Licensing," *Seattle Times*, 6 April 2005, B7.

After telling the story of how he went to the DOL in South Seattle and found it poorly organized and understaffed, and comparing it to the North Seattle DOL his daughter went to the next day, he argues that all Seattle area citizens "are not being served equally well, and the state should ensure its DOL offices are provided adequate resources and sufficient staff, as any customer-friendly business would."



Argument from Narrative Diagrammed

Story of contrasting
DOL experiences.



It is unfair that people
are being treated
differently in South and
North Seattle, with the
former getting poor
service from the state.

The moral of a story tells
us a greater truth.



Tests for Argument from Narrative

- Does the moral really follow from the story?
- Is the narrative plausible and coherent?
Are characterizations consistent?



Easily confused argument types

- argument by example (reasoning from general to specific and vice versa)

vs.

argument by analogy (reasoning from case to case)

- argument from sign (indicating that something is or is not)

vs.

argument from cause (arguing that something caused something else).