

Assignment Title: Argument Reconstruction Section Activity

Type of Course: Any Intro Philosophy Course

Mechanic(s): Chance

Draft of Prompt:

The instructor selects paragraphs from the reading that contain arguments that need to be reconstructed. Ideally, the arguments will be of varying levels of difficulty and complexity. Each student is randomly assigned a paragraph to analyze and present to the class. Ideally, this activity will be repeated several times so students achieve a variety of levels of success over the course of the class.

If any student does “fail” at reconstructing their argument, this presents a moment for the class to discuss how to tackle this sort of difficult argument.

Role of Chance: Chance determines which students get the harder and easier assignments.

Effects of Chance: If the random assignment is done with students present, e.g. using a dice roll, chance might create a sense of drama or suspense. Chance also decouples skill from success to some extent and lowers the stakes of “getting it right”.