

Standard form & argument map

P1. Many previous attempts to reform the police have failed.

Therefore,

P2. We can't reform the police to deal with police violence.

P3. There are statistics show that: police spend the vast majority of their time doing things like responding to noise complaints and issuing parking and traffic citations.

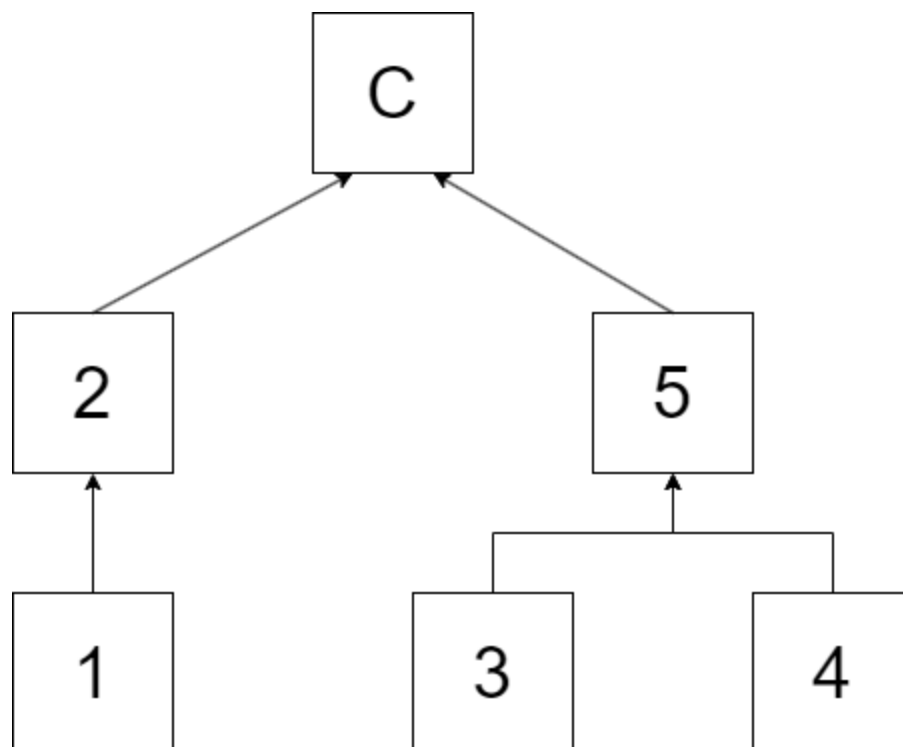
P4. We can't simply change police job descriptions to let police focus on the worst of the worst criminals.

Therefore,

P5. Police officers don't do what most people think they do, like primarily dealing with violent crime.

Therefore,

C. We should abolish the police entirely.



Evaluation

The author's main conclusion is that due to the previous attempts to reform the police to deal with police violence have failed, and police officers cannot fully focus on violent crime, the solution is to abolish the police entirely. However, this argument is not providing good reasons to accept the conclusion, it ignores important factors and makes assumptions that undermine its validity.

Firstly, there are weaknesses in the first and the second premises, they claim that because previous attempts to reform the police have failed, future reforms would not work. Even if the first premise is true and past reforms have not addressed issues of police violence, it does not mean that all future attempts will inevitably fail. The argument contains an informal fallacy known as a ***hasty generalisation***, it does not consider the possibility of learning from past mistakes and implementing more effective reforms, but rather directly assumes a pessimistic outlook. Although valid arguments exist for addressing police violence and reform, abolishing the police without viable alternatives may lead to a collapse of order. The argument lacks evidence or examples to demonstrate how a society without police could handle crime and maintain public safety. Relying on the assumption of automatic positive outcomes from abolishing the police weakens the argument's persuasiveness and support.

Secondly, there is a weakness in the third and fifth premises. The argument contains an informal fallacy known as the ***fallacy of composition***. The argument assumes that because police spend their major time on non-violent activities like responding to noise complaints and issuing parking and traffic citations, it follows that police don't primarily deal with violent crime. While police officers may spend a lot of time on non-violent activities, it does not deny the fact that their primary function is to address and prevent violent crime. Even if the argument's third premise is valid, it does not reduce the importance of the police in maintaining public safety and addressing serious criminal offences. Therefore, this also does not mean that the police's role in handling violent crime is insignificant or replaceable. The

argument fails to recognise that the existence of non-violent responsibilities does not reduce the need for police to handle violent crime.

Furthermore, the fourth premise claims that changing police job descriptions to let them focus on the most serious criminals is not a solution. However, it lacks evidence or reasons to support the claim. Although redefining the role of the police may be difficult, it is not necessarily impossible or unworthy of consideration. Exploring alternative policing models, such as specialised units for violent crime, could address the concerns raised in the argument.

In conclusion, there are some weaknesses in the argument to abolish the police as a response to police violence, and the conclusion is not acceptable. To strengthen the argument, it can provide evidence proving the failure of all previous police reforms and examine the factors that led to those failures.