

Critical Thinking

Chapter 1

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- **Belief = Claim**
 - Claim → Statement that is either true or false

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 - Idea → Any Thought You Have
 - Belief → To Give a Truth Value (-/+) To That Idea

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 - *5) To understand consequences*

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 - **4) Arguments**
 - We must learn the structure and types of arguments in order to evaluate them

When to Accept a Claim? & Fact vs. Opinion

- Plato: "Tie it Down"
 - Truth must be absolute and unchanging
 - But he did not fully explain how we tie it down
- Fact vs. Opinion
 - Fact = Good and/or testable evidence for its truth
 - Opinion = Lack of evidence (not that no such evidence exists)

Matter of Fact vs. Matter of Opinion

- Matter of Fact → “Objective” / Established ways of testing the claim
 - “Objective” – often used by logicians
- Matter of Opinion → No objective methods of evaluation

Matter of Fact?

- 1) Manuel weighs over 150 pounds
- 2) Diet soda tastes bland compared to regular soda
- 3) Diet soda will help those lose weight better than regular soda
- 4) It is too expensive to sail on a cruise ship
- 5) It costs more money to travel to San Francisco than it does to travel to Los Angeles
- 5) The lake is too cold for swimming
- 6) President Donald Trump is smarter than President Barack Obama

Remember ...

- Purpose of logic is to arrive at the truth of things
- Claim = _____
- When a claim is being made you are being asked to evaluate it
- And how we do so → We look at/evaluate arguments

Arguments:

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- Trouble is figuring out what is important and what is not
 - For Example:
 - **Senator Nancy Pelosi will not support sending troops to Syria. She is a democrat and most democrats do not support the use of troops. Her 9 year-old grandson said that he thought war is bad, and I like what her grandson said.**

How to evaluate:

- Is the support offered *good* support ... but what does *good* mean?
- Two Ways to Determine This:
 - 1) Is it true that she is a democrat **and** is it true that *most* democrats do not support the war?
 - Involves Questions of Truth
 - 2) If we assume that both premises are true does it follow (with certainty or with good **likelihood**) that Pelosi will not vote to send troops?
 - Centers around questions of Structure or Form → Validity or Invalidity