

LOGIC, REASONING, AND PERSUASION 07; WRITING ASSIGNMENT, PART 1

Due Wednesday, October 15th. Grading: *not much progress* / *progress* / *complete*. Re-submissions available. Submit on Canvas or in class.

One of the objections that A&C consider in their paper is the following:

Using ChatGPT in the process of writing a college humanities paper may enhance autonomy, rather than undermine it.

A&C describe this objection in more detail in §4, paragraphs 3–4. Then in §4 paragraphs 5–9, they give their response to that objection. This is the approximate structure of paragraphs 3–9 of §4:

1. ¶3–4: The Objection
2. ¶5–7: Response One (¶5), Response Two (¶6), Response Three (¶7)
3. ¶8: Discussion of banning chatbots *thoroughly* for assignments like papers.
4. ¶9: Discussion of educator responsibilities if chatbots are banned thoroughly.

In this assignment, you will analyze the first two responses.

1 | PART 1: RE-READING

Re-read §4 in its entirety, but focusing on ¶¶3–7.

2 | PART 2: INFORMAL ARGUMENT MAP AND PROSE RESTATEMENT

For **each of** Response One and Response Two (in paragraphs 5 and 6), give an informal argument map and restate the argument in prose.

2.1 | Argument Map

Write the argument in the paragraph as an informal argument map. This argument map does not need to have more one than one layer (although it can). There may not be a *unique* way to correctly map the argument, but there will be ways that do make sense based on the text, and ways that don't.

1. First identify the *main conclusion* that Aylsworth and Castro appear to be defending in each paragraph.
2. Then identify the premises that they use to support that conclusion. Number the premises so you can refer back to them more easily.
 - (a) For each premise or conclusion in the map, locate and specify the portion of the paragraph where you take the authors to be asserting or implying that premise or conclusion.
 - (b) Make sure that when you identify the premises, they satisfy the rules for writing argument maps: premises are **simple statements** and premises in a level/step are **mutually dependent**.
 - (c) If authors list reasons *against* their own conclusion, you can include it in the argument map underneath the conclusion, specifying that it is a reason *against*. (I'll say more about this on Monday October 6th).
3. For each premise that you identify, see if it is supported by further premises (another level down), repeating considerations (a)-(c) above.

2.2 | *Restate in Prose*

Based on your argument map, restate the argument in prose form: as if you were summarizing the argument to someone, but trying to do it *more clearly* than the authors themselves. The restatement doesn't have to be longer than the original. You don't have to include all of the statements that the authors write (some of them might not be as relevant), but you should give the complete argument in the paragraph.¹

3 | PART 3: LOGIC MACHINES

Identify a Logic Machine: For **one** of the argument maps, identify a portion of the argument map (one conclusion and the premises that support it) that is *deductive*, and thus can be analyzed as a truth-preserving logic machine. Identify the truth-preserving logic machine that is being used, and specify the premises and conclusion.

- **Note:** you may have to rewrite the premises and conclusion in order to make them fit the logic machine.
- **Hint:** each of the paragraphs has at least one portion that is analyzable as either an Implication Machine or a Chain Machine.

4 | PART 4: CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE

Improve: Finally, for **one** of the argument maps, identify what you take to be something *missing*. Is there a premise that needs to be improved? One that needs to be added? Improve the argument by adding or amending the premise, and explain why the argument would be better if changed.

This is a long assignment. I've tried to make the instructions clear, but things are always clearer to the author than the readers! I will repost this document with a sample implementation of the assignment to clarify how the assignment should be completed.

1. Actually, this is a part of the assignment that I expect chatbots would be quite good at, if prompted correctly. If you want to use an AI chatbot, but also want to make sure you are able to do this sort of restatement by yourself, I recommend that you *first* do the restatement by yourself, then “check your work” against the AIs, and modify your work accordingly. This is because it's much easier to *recognize* a correct answer than to *generate* it.