

Mastering the concepts of validity and soundness gives you way to talk
about, and criticize, arguments.

Your main goal in this class is to figure out what you think about the big questions we will be discussing. But a side benefit is that, if work hard at that, you will get **much** better at thinking about arguments.

How do you show that an argument is not sound? Remember: **soundness = validity + true premises**. So to show that an argument is unsound, you can do one of two things: show that it is invalid, or show that it has a false premise.

In our first section of the class, we'll be considering some arguments whose conclusion is 'God exists' and some other arguments whose conclusion is 'God does not exist.' Suppose that you think that God exists. Then it is your job to explain why you think that the arguments whose conclusion is 'God does not exist' are not sound. After all, if they were sound, their conclusion would be true — and you (in this example) think that their conclusion is false.

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