

Argument to justify 2Z

2Z: If I can conceive of something, then it is logically possible.

P = a situation involves a logical contradiction.

Q = we notice any logical contradiction when thinking about a situation very carefully.

Logical form of the argument:

If **P**, then **Q**.

∴ If **not Q**, then **not P**.

Contraposition

2Z 1. If a situation involves a logical contradiction, then we would notice it when thinking about it very carefully.

∴ **2Z 1C.** So if we **DON'T** notice any logical contradiction when thinking about a situation very carefully, then it must be because a situation involves **NO** logical contradictions.

R = we don't notice any logical contradiction when thinking about a situation very carefully.

S = a situation involves no logical contradictions.

T = a situation is conceivable.

2Z 1C. If we don't notice any logical contradiction when thinking about a situation very carefully, then it must be because a situation involves no logical contradictions.

2Z 2. If a situation is conceivable, then we don't notice any logical contradiction when thinking about it very carefully. (def. of conceivable)

∴ If a situation is conceivable, then it must be because there are no logical contradictions.

Logical form of the argument:

If **R**, then **S**.

If **T**, then **R**.

∴ If **T**, then **S**.

Syllogism

* Notice that (this conclusion) is **2Z**.

* Syllogism is the form of the most famous argument:

If something is a man, then it is mortal.

Socrates is a man.

∴ Socrates is mortal.

* Syllogism and Contraposition are valid types of argument. That means that if you want to deny the conclusion, you have to deny one of the premises. You can't just deny the conclusion because in valid arguments it is logically impossible that the premises are true and the conclusion false.

* When one says that a proposition P *logically follows from* some other proposition Q, that just means that if Q is true, then so is P; or it is logically impossible that Q is true and P is false. That means that if you want to deny P, you have to deny Q.

* In valid arguments the conclusion *logically follows* from the premises.