

Deductive vs. inductive arguments



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Deductive vs. Inductive Arguments Introduction There are two forms of argument ly deductive and inductive, which we study to help in differentiate between correct and incorrect reasoning,

A deductive argument is one in which it is supposed that the premises (supporting reasons or evidence) offer an assurance of the reality of the conclusion. The premises herein are envisioned to offer a very strong support for the conclusion in such a way that if the premises are true, the conclusion can under no circumstances be false (IEP, 2003). The conclusion follows with absolute certainty. For example, All human beings are mortal.

I am a human being.

I am mortal.

An inductive argument on the other hand is an argument in which it is supposed that the premises offer reasons that supports the possible truth of the conclusion. The premises herein are envisioned only to be so strong that in case they are true, then there is no likelihood of the conclusion being false. The conclusion does not follow with absolute certainty (Msu. edu, n. d).

For example, Many Americans like pets.

My teacher is an American.

My teacher like pets

In conclusion, it is apparent that the distinction between the two arguments emanates from the nature of relation that the argument's expositor takes to be between the conclusion and the premises. If he/she believes that the premises' truth definitely determines the conclusion's truth owing to definition, mathematical necessity or logical entailment, then the argument is deductive. Conversely, if he/she believes that the truth of the premises provides an appropriate reason to believe that the conclusion is true; in that

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case, the argument is inductive (IEP, 2003).

References

IEP, (2003). Deductive and Inductive Arguments. Retrieved from <http://www.iep.utm.edu/ded-ind/>

Msu. edu, (n. d). Deductive Arguments and Inductive Arguments: How to Tell the Difference. Retrieved from <https://www.msu.edu/~marianaj/DedInd.htm>