

Basic Information on Arguments

1. An argument draws a conclusion and, crucially it *gives reasons* for that conclusion.
2. All arguments have at least two statements: A conclusion and one or more premises. The premise or premises are the parts that give reasons that argue why the conclusion is correct.
3. For an argument to exist, premises must *lead* to the conclusion. If this is not the case, and more than two statements are present, then what we have is a series of statements, not an argument.
4. Any statement that has only one statement cannot be an argument.
5. An argument may or may not be valid according to the rules of logic. It is perfectly possible to make an argument, with both premises and conclusion, that nevertheless violates the rules of logic. This is what is meant by an invalid argument.