

Exercise 1-1

2. This is a *description* of how the speaker spent her summer vacation, not an argument.
4. At the present rate of consumption, the oil will be used up in 20–25 years (premise).
And we're sure not going to reduce consumption in the near future (premise).
So we'd better start developing solar power, windmills, and other "alternative energy sources" pretty soon (conclusion).
6. *Conjecture*, not an argument.
8. Don't be fooled by the "thus" in this passage. This is an *explanation*, not an argument.
10. To be sustained under the Eighth Amendment, the death penalty must "comport with the basic concept of human dignity at the core of the Amendment"; the objective in imposing it must be "consistent with our respect for the dignity of other men" (premise).
[The death penalty] has as its very basis the total denial of the wrongdoer's dignity and worth (premise).
The taking of life "because the wrongdoer deserves it" surely must fail (conclusion).
12. Every event must have a cause (premise).
An infinite series of causes is impossible (premise).
There must be a first uncaused cause of everything: God (conclusion).
14. Not an argument.