

21W.732
Spring 2010

Elements and structure of Argumentation

Thesis/Conclusion: what you're trying to prove

Premises: reasons for supporting for the conclusion

Arguments :

- Statistical data
- Examples:
 - Sample
 - Illustration
- Authority
- Analogy
- Logical inference

data + evidence

Anecdotal

Ordering the elements of an argument:

- "Deductive"
- "Inductive"

*How to organize data to support
your findings.*

Structure more contained than narrative:

21W.732
Fall 2009

Students need more time to
adjust

Argumentation Exercise

- physical/mental wellbeing
- academic

Thesis/Conclusion:

MIT should maintain its policy of "record/no record" for the 1st semester of freshman year

evidence in support of

Give one reason (premise)

students need time to adjust

Offer at least one piece of evidence (real or imaginary) to support that reason (premise)

- exploring interests
- look at historical grade data ^{and before p/nr} spring vs fall
- need the time to learn how to study
 - never actually had to learn anything
 - or glided through on grade inflation or simple problems
- different levels of hs
- gets people out of mindset of grades for their academic career
- encourage people to help others
- compare suicide rates

→ making assumption that is good thing

- obvious, but be clear
- could look at activity participation
- could use survey - better than anecdotal evidence
- look at other schools (peer institutions)

effects on recruiting

1/10/11

the recruitment function

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