

Critical Reasoning, PHIL105.012 Fall, 2009

Peter Amato, MacAlister 5030, extension 1353, peterama@drexel.edu

Office hours: T, Th, F 3:30-5:00 and other times by appointment

NAME _____

Exercise Set #1 - Hi. Here is the first Exercise Set for this term. It is due by the end of the day, **Tuesday, October 6**. You can hand your finished work in at class-time that day, or place it in my mailbox in the English and Philosophy Department, or slip it under my office door any time up until 5:00pm. Emailed work will be considered on time if sent before midnight that night. Please follow all the instructions carefully, and let me know if you'd like me to clarify anything, or if you have any questions at all.

Ex. 1.1 Questions - Instructions: Based only on the text and discussion from this class, answer the three questions below in a clear and detailed way, in at least about 6-8 sentences each, in your own words as much as possible. (10 points each)

1. Explain fully and carefully why the word "critical" is included in the title of this course.

2. Explain carefully what the term "bias" means in the context of this course.

3. Define the term “argument” as it is used in logic, and explain the basic difference between logic and rhetoric. Give an original example of an argument and identify its conclusion and premises.

Exercise 1.2 Argument Analyses - *Instructions:* Here are ten simple arguments. Apply the four-step method introduced in Chapter 2 to analyze each one in the follow way: *Circle or format in bold italics* any logical indicators that you find, place the conclusion in *brackets*, *underline* all of the premises, and *write out the* question and two foundational assumptions in the spaces provided. (10 points each)

Example: Since it would increase the number of pet adoptions per year if they did so, and limit the number of gift-pets abandoned each year, it follows that [people who are considering purchasing puppies or kittens as presents should visit animal shelters and pet adoption centers before buying a gift-pet.]

Question: Should people who are considering buying pets visit shelters or adoptions centers first.

Assuming: If buyers went to centers and shelters, some would end up adopting instead of buying.

Assuming: Pets adopted from adoption centers and shelters are less likely to be abandoned.

1.. His antics are hilarious and he is very effective at getting the crowd excited and making a lot of noise. He is a great dancer, as well. For all these reasons, the Phillie Phanatic is the best mascot in all of baseball.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

2. All pigeons are doves. Therefore, the bird that pooped on Charlie had to be a pigeon because it was a dove.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

3. Online courses are less challenging and less rewarding than traditional classroom courses since students are cut-off from each other's comments, insights, and reactions. Also, the instructor can hardly get to know the students or what they know unless they are all very good writers.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

4. Online courses are more challenging and rewarding than traditional classroom courses seeing as each student typically has a lot more writing to produce and a lot more direct feedback from the instructor as compared to traditional classroom courses.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

5. The best place to buy dormitory stuff is the Flea Market. The prices can't be beat. And you find a lot of unique objects there. Furthermore, it's a way of shopping locally that usually helps the economy of your local community.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

6. All the books written by Theodore Geisel are regarded as great classics of world literature. So, *The Lorax* must be a great classic of world literature, because it was written by Theodore Geisel.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

7. Philadelphia can become one of the world's foremost cycling cities by investing more in cycling-friendly streets and parks, and bicycle races and related events and seeing as such investments would spur tourism and employment, and would improve the quality of life, hence, Philadelphia should increase its cycling-related investments.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

8. Kobe Bryant is definitely a better basketball player than LeBron James, and here's why—Kobe is more talented, more effective, more skillful, more athletic, and has been more successful than LeBron.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

9. Joe is at home watching the Phillies in his room if he is not watching them at the bar. Joe is not at home right now watching the Phillies in his room. Thus, he must be watching them at the bar right now.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____

10. Philadelphia should expand the number and types of licensed casinos within the city limits. The opponents of casinos wish to return us to the prudish and restrictive days when styles of music and forms of entertainment were outlawed just for being considered immoral or perverse by those in power.

Question: _____

Assuming: _____

Assuming: _____