

Arguments

Note: These arguments are from *A Concise Introduction to Logic* by Patrick J. Hurley and are abstracted from newspaper articles, editorials, and letters to the editor. (If you're interested in the original source of any of these, feel free to ask me.) For each, create a diagram of the structure of the argument presented. Do not include statements which are redundant or which play no role in the argument.

- A. (1) The conditions under which many food animals are raised are unhealthy for humans. (2) To keep these animals alive, large quantities of drugs must be administered. (3) These drugs remain in the animals' flesh and are passed on to the humans who eat it.
- B. (1) Homework stifles the thrill of learning in the mind of the student. (2) It instills an oppressive learn-or-else discipline. (3) It quenches the desire for knowledge and the love of truth. For these reasons, (4) homework should never be assigned.
- C. (1) When parents become old and destitute, the obligation of caring for them should be imposed on their children. (2) Clearly, children owe a debt to their parents. (3) Their parents brought them into the world and cared for them when they were unable to care for themselves. (4) This debt could be appropriately discharged by having grown children care for their parents.
- D. (1) Defending the war on drugs may not be fashionable, but the fact remains that (2) hardcore drugs should remain illegal. (3) As long as hardcore drugs are illegal, they are harder to get, and (4) the social stigma of being arrested deters many users.
- E. (1) Contributions to relief organizations are often wasted. (2) Food sent to war torn countries rarely reaches its destination, because (3) food distribution is controlled by the warring groups, and (4) these groups sell the food to buy weapons and ammunition.
- F. (1) America's farm policy desperately needs revamping. (2) Seventy-three cents of every farm program dollar ends up in the pockets of the nation's super-farmers. As a result, (3) the mid-sized family farms are being squeezed out of existence. Also, (4) our farm policy courts environmental disaster. (5) Federal subsidies encourage farmers to use enormous amounts of fertilizer and pesticides. (6) These chemicals percolate down through the soil and pollute limited groundwater.
- G. (1) A manned trip to Mars is a justifiable scientific goal because (2) it affords a unique opportunity to explore the origins of the solar system and the emergence of life. However, (3) from a scientific standpoint, an initial landing on the tiny Martian moons, Phobos and Deimos, would be more rewarding than a landing on the planet itself. Because (4) the Martian terrain is rugged, (5) humans would not be able to venture far, (6) nor could they operate a robot vehicle without the use of a satellite, since (7) Mars's mountains would block their view. (8) Explorers on Phobos and Deimos could easily send robot vehicles to the planet's surface. (9) Using Mars's moons as a base would also be better than unmanned exploration directed from the Houston space center. Because (10) the distance is so great, (11) radio signals to and from Mars can take as long as an hour. Thus, (12) driving an unmanned rover from Earth, step by step, would be a time-consuming operation. (13) Sample returns to Earth would take months instead of hours, and (14) follow-on missions would be years apart instead of days, further slowing the process of exploration.