

Assume each passage presents an argument. Diagram the argument presented in each.

1. There is no point in getting your first elementary education in some other language if your native language is English, because English is the language of world business and world scholarship and it English is the most important language a person can learn to speak and write fluently.
2. Language is necessary for communication, and communication is necessary for the advancement of our civilization. Therefore, language is necessary for the advancement of our civilization. Furthermore, any attempt to censor language will restrict that advancement. Therefore it always wrong to censor books.
3. If a word could mean just anything or could be used in any old way, there would in fact be no meaning. So language requires rules. To have a rule, we have to have more than one person following a rule. That's because a single person could make anything he wanted be right, and his so-called rule would not really be a rule at all. So private language is impossible.
(Adapted from philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein)
4. Hey, you're overwatering your lawn. See? There are mushrooms growing around the base of that tree – a sure sign of overwatering. Also, look at all the worms on the ground. They come up when the earth is oversaturated.
5. From a letter to the editor: “By trying to eliminate Charles Darwin from the curriculum, creationists are doing themselves a great disservice. When read carefully, Darwin’s discoveries only support the thesis that species change, not that they evolve into new species. This is a thesis that most creationists can live with. When read carefully, Darwin actually supports the creationist point of view.”
6. As we enter a new century, about 100 million Americans are producing data on the internet as rapidly as they consume it. Each of these users is tracked by technologies ever more able to collate essential facts about them – age, address, credit rating, marital status, etc. – in electronic form for use in commerce. One Web site, for example, promises, for the meager sum of \$7, to scan “over two billion records to create a single comprehensive report on an individual.” It is not unreasonable, then, to believe that the combination of capitalism and technology pose a looming threat to what remains of our privacy.
7. I don't think we should get Carlos his own car. As a matter of fact, he is not responsible, because he doesn't care for his things. And anyway, we don't have enough money for a car, since even now we are having trouble making ends meet. Last week you yourself complained about our financial situation, and you never complain without a really good reason.
8. From a letter to the editor: “The idea of a free press in America today is a joke. A small group of people, the nation’s advertisers, control the media more effectively than if they owned it outright. Through fear of an advertising boycott, they can dictate everything from programming to news report content. Politicians as well as editors shiver in their boots at the thought of such a boycott. This situation is intolerable and ought to be changed. I suggest we all listen to National Public Radio and public television.”

#1-3 from *A Practical Study of Argument*, 6th ed. , by Trudy Govier (pp. 43 – 44)

#4-8 from *Critical Thinking*, 8th ed., by Brook Noel Moore & Richard Parker (# 4-6 p. 233; # 7 p. 227, # 8 p. 240)