REVIEW

A. IMPORTANT TERMS
statement
reason
argument
premise
conclusion
inference
explanation

B. SKILLS we will be developing & refining here
1. recognizing whether a group of statements (a passage of text or bit of conversation) contains an argument
2. understanding arguments – identifying what components play what roles
3. evaluating how well arguments support their conclusions
4. constructing arguments that provide strong support for their conclusions

INDUCTIVE vs. DEDUCTIVE
The traditional distinction between inductive and deductive arguments
inductive arguments
deductive arguments
A better distinction applies directly to ways of evaluating arguments, and only applies to arguments indirectly
inductive arguments: arguments appropriately evaluated in inductive terms
deductive arguments: arguments appropriately evaluated in deductive terms
appropriateness - largely a matter of which standard the arguer intends to satisfy

Evaluating arguments in inductive terms
inductive strength a matter of degree
How strongly do the premises support the conclusion?
The more likely the premises make the conclusion, the greater the inductive strength
The higher the probability of the conclusion, given that the premises are T, the greater the inductive strength
inductive cogency If an argument is inductively strong AND all its premises are true, the argument is inductively cogent.

Evaluating arguments in deductive terms
deductively valid Yes or no, all or nothing
There is no possible situation that would make the premises all T but the conclusion F
If the premises are all T, the conclusion must be T
deductively sound deductively valid, PLUS the premises are all true
(actually, the way the world really is)