

7. Aristotelian Logic

The Categorical Syllogism: Constructng Arguments

A. Construct a first-figure syllogism supporting one side of each of the following contradictory pairs.

1. No criminals should be executed. Some criminals should be executed.
2. All murderers should be executed. Some murderers should not be executed.
3. No Christians should fear death. Some Christians should fear death.
4. No acts of vigilantism are justified. Some acts of vigilantism are justified.
5. Using military force against Saddam Hussein was a good policy. Using military force against Saddam Hussein was a bad policy. [Treat these as though they were A and E propositions, respectively.]

B. Construct a second-figure syllogism supporting each of the claims below.

1. Some American citizens are not eligible for the presidency.
2. Some thoughtful people would not make good presidents.
3. No bats are birds.
4. No athletes who lack the virtue of sportsmanship should be allowed to play on school athletic teams.

C. Show how a counter-example might be used to rebut each of the following rules. (I.e., construct a third-figure syllogism against each.)

1. All American citizens are eligible for the presidency.
2. All thoughtful people would make good presidents.
3. No act of killing another human being is justifiable.
4. No political good is worth a single human life.