Lecture 4
Fundamentals of Reasoning I

What’s an argument...?

write down your initial thoughts

Some ideas...

http://www.scottberlin.com/images/40-1.jpg

An Argument

A: would go to the beach today
B: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
C: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
D: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
E: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
F: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
G: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
H: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
I: I would enjoy myself at the beach.
J: I would enjoy myself at the beach.

Argument Components

A: I should go to the beach today.
B: I should go to the beach today.
C: I should go to the beach today.
D: I should go to the beach today.
E: I should go to the beach today.
F: I should go to the beach today.
G: I should go to the beach today.
H: I should go to the beach today.
I: I should go to the beach today.
J: I should go to the beach today.
Important!

All claims must be stated as propositions

4 x 4 Noughts and Crosses

A proposition is a thought that is capable of being true or false.
We may be faced with an issue or problem that we need to make a determination upon.
Example 1

Acme is concerned about its image and wants to be perceived as healthy in the eyes of health-conscious consumers. Acme has decided to make their puddings healthier without compromising profit or taste by replacing its sugar content with an artificial sweetener. Do you think Acme puddings would be perceived as healthy?

Building the Argument Map

Steps:
1. What’s the position – remember to formulate the claim as a proposition – something that can be true or false.

2. Identify the main reason/s to support or provide evidence for the position.

3. Identify the main objection/s to oppose or provide evidence that the position is false.

4. Consider further reasons and objections which support the main reason/s and objection/s already identified.

5. Is there any other reasons or objections which support or refute another claim?
The argument

‘[Being armed] is an American tradition. It is an American responsibility to be armed because if you’re not armed then you’re not responsible. Whose going to defend your kids – the cops? The Federal Government? No. It’s your job to protect you and yours, if you don’t do it, you’re in dereliction of duty as an American. Period.’