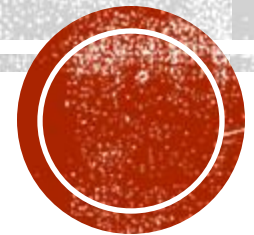


UNIT B

Argument Reconstruction



THE NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

- Recap: the goal of critical thinking is to **assess and evaluate** arguments
- i.e. explaining why an argument is a good/bad one
- In other words, do the premises *successfully* establish the conclusion?
- Need for **argument reconstruction** – the clear *re*-representation of arguments into premises and conclusions in standard form/ arrow diagrams

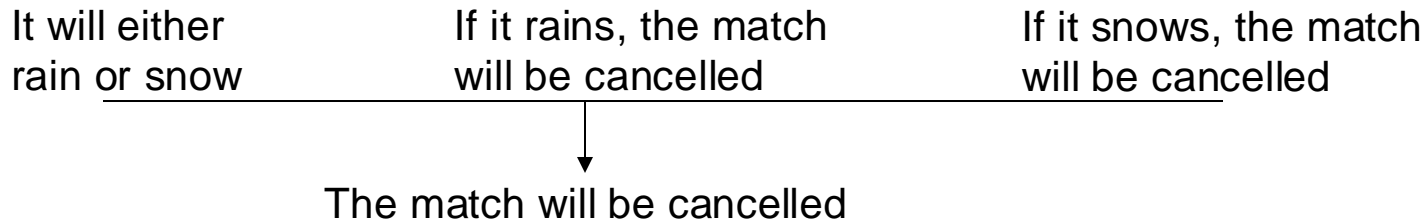


ARROW DIAGRAMS

- When presented in standard prose

It will either rain or snow. If it rains, the match will be cancelled. Likewise, if it snows. So the match will be cancelled.

- When presented in an arrow diagram

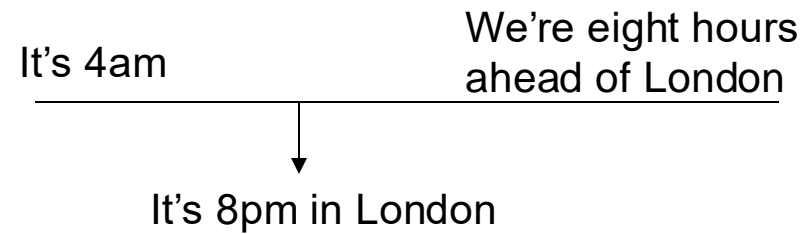


- Now, we can see the potential weak points clearly:
 - Are the premises true?
 - Is the argument valid? (the arrow)
 - Here, there are 4 possible weak points

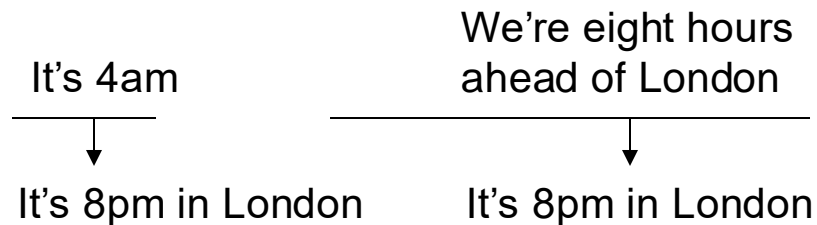


WHICH IS CORRECT?

- It's 4am. So it's 8pm in London. We're 8 hours ahead of London.

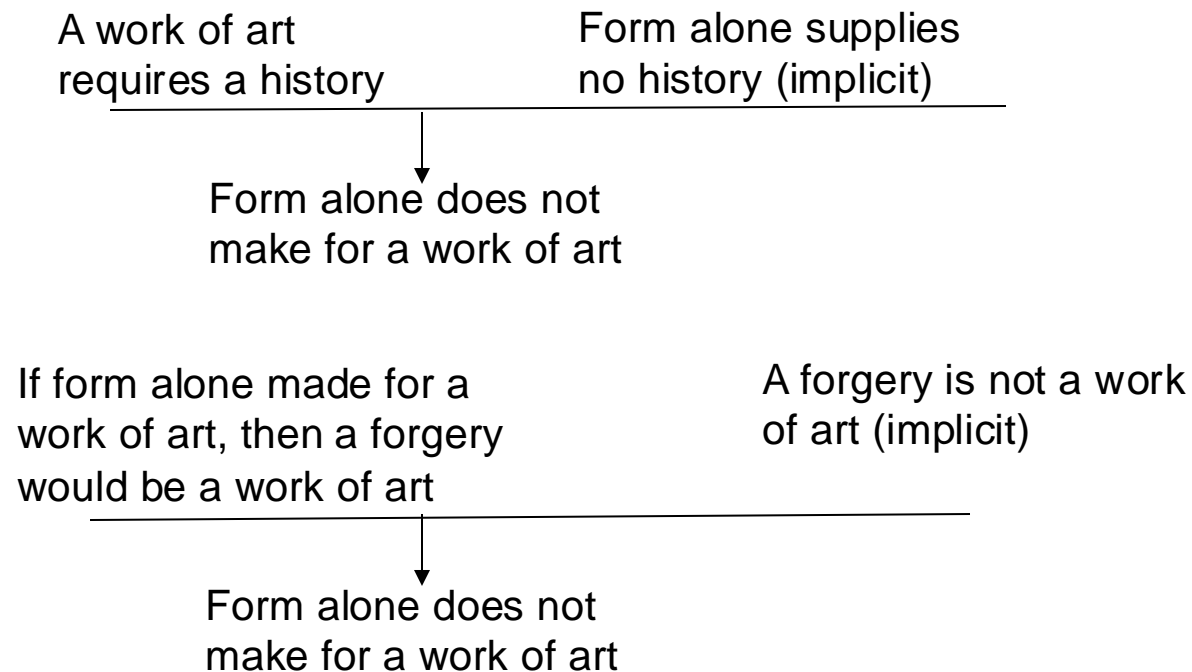


OR



TWO ARGUMENTS, NOT ONE

- Form alone does not make for a work of art since a work of art requires a history. If form alone made for a work of art, then a forgery would be a work of art.



INCORRECT RECONSTRUCTION

- Form alone does not make for a work of art since a work of art requires a history. If form alone made for a work of art, then a forgery would be a work of art.

A work of art
requires a history

If form alone made for a work of art,
then a forgery would be a work of art



Form alone does not
make for a work of art

- Why?



INCORRECT RECONSTRUCTION

- Form alone does not make for a work of art since a work of art requires a history. If form alone made for a work of art, then a forgery would be a work of art.

A work of art requires a history



If form alone made for a work of art,
then a forgery would be a work of art



Form alone does not
make for a work of art

- Why? Does it not look like the prose?



ONE PREMISE, TWO CONCLUSIONS

- It will rain soon. So the streets will be wet. The weather will also get cooler.

It will rain soon
↓
The streets will
be wet

It will rain soon
↓
The weather
will get cooler

It will rain soon
↓
The streets will be wet and
the weather will get cooler

- Incorrect reconstruction – Why?

It will rain soon
↓
The streets will be wet
↓
The weather
will get cooler



ARGUMENTS IN A CHAIN

- The King would have been furious if the dignitaries arrived late since he does not tolerate latecomers. As the King is not furious, they must have arrived on time.

The King does not
tolerate latecomers



The King would have
been furious if the
dignitaries arrived late

The King is not
furious



The dignitaries
arrived on time



INCORRECT RECONSTRUCTION

The King would have been furious if
the dignitaries arrived late since he
does not tolerate latecomers



As the King is not furious, the
dignitaries arrived on time

- The whole point of arrow diagrams is to **do away** with premise and conclusion indicators



HOMEWORK

- Exercise B in lecture notes
- Reconstruct the following arguments in the form of an Arrow Diagram.
- Optional but good to read: Keith De Rose's "What is Epistemology?"



LET'S DO ONE TOGETHER

- 1) If the bull charges, we'll be in trouble. Since it's sleeping, it won't charge. So we're safe.

