

Diagramming Reasoning Exercises

- A) Circle all inference indicators. Supply and circle any inference indicators that are omitted but clearly suggested.
- B) Angle bracket and number each logically significant statement in the discourse.
- C) Construct a diagram, using circled numbers and arrows, showing the structure of the reasoning.

1) A large percentage of deaths caused by cancer are environmentally induced and since we can always change our environment, it follows that a large percentage of the deaths caused by cancer are preventable.

2) “Beware, for, I am fearless and therefore powerful.” From Mary Shelly *Frankenstein* (1818)

3) “It would be impossible to go tomorrow. We owe Mrs. Jennings much more than civility, and civility of the commonest kind must prevent such a hasty removal as that.” From Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)

Diagramming Reasoning Exercises 2

- D) Circle all inference indicators. Supply and circle any inference indicators that are omitted but clearly suggested.
- E) Angle bracket and number each logically significant statement in the discourse.
- F) Construct a diagram, using circled numbers and arrows, showing the structure of the reasoning.

- 1) Children's families, and not the lawmakers, should decide which rules their children should follow, because otherwise there is too much governmental control over our lives. So, laws requiring bicycle riders to wear helmets should not be enacted here.

- 2) All natural disasters are comforting because they reaffirm our impotence... At time it is strangely sedative to know the extent of your powerlessness. (Jong)

- 3) There is a great difference between mind and body, inasmuch as body is by nature always divisible, and the mind is entirely indivisible. (Descartes)