

## Argument Diagrams

1. Cottage cheese will help you to be slender, youthful, and more beautiful. Enjoy it often.
2. Since the marginal utility of money decreases as one has more of it, upper-income taxpayers can afford to pay a proportionally greater share of their incomes than can the poor.

*-Robert Ricketts*

3. If you want to listen to loud music, do it when we are not at home. It bothers us, and we're your parents.
4. You really shouldn't wear those shoes any more. They're too small, and they're pretty worn out as it is. Besides, they look funny.
5. Drug use is wrong because it is immoral, and it is immoral because it enslaves the mind and destroys the soul.

*-James Q. Wilson*

6. Either there's a burglar outside, or there's a dog in the garbage. There can't be a dog in the garbage, because we have a fence around the house. So, there must be a burglar outside.
7. If you want to see the best version of *The Three Musketeers*, try the 1948 version. Lana Turner is luscious, Vincent Price is dastardly; Angela Lansbury is exquisitely regal; and nobody ever has or ever will portray D'Artagnan with the grace, athleticism, or skill of Gene Kelly. Rent it. It's a must.
8. You really shouldn't buy a television set that costs over \$300, and that one costs \$450. Besides, it's too big for your room anyway.

9. It's Monday, so the mail carrier will probably arrive after noon today. He usually comes in the early afternoon on Mondays.
  
10. Let's see. I know our policy covers us if our car is stolen or if the windows are broken. So, chances are it'll cover us if someone steals the stereo, too. In fact, our homeowners policy covers stereos, and our car policy covers a lot of the same stuff the homeowners policy covers.
  
11. People who read more tend to have better vocabularies than those who don't, and having a good vocabulary makes you a better speaker and writer. Since good speaking and writing are important job skills, you are probably a better job candidate if you read a lot.
  
12. The past does not exist, and neither does the future. Hence, only the present exists. However, during the present there can be no lapse of time, since the present is always instantaneous. Therefore, time does not exist.

*-David Hume*
  
13. Without dust there would be no twilight, no blue skies, no gorgeous sunsets, none of the ethereal color effects that hold landscape painters in thrall. If light were not scattered by myriad minute dust particles in the air, the sun's heat would be unbearable. Without dust to serve as nucleation sites, rain clouds would not readily form, and so the days would be intensely hot and the nights intensely cold. Dust, in sum, makes life possible on this planet.

*-Ivor Smullen*
  
14. Nothing is demonstrable unless the contrary implies a contradiction. Nothing that is distinctively conceivable implies a contradiction. Whatever we conceive as existent, we can also conceive as non-existent. There is no being, therefore, whose non-existence implies a contradiction. Consequently there is no being whose existence is demonstrable.

*-David Hume*

15. Here is a gentleman of medical type, but with the air of a military man. Clearly an army doctor, then. He has just come from the tropics, for his face is dark, and that is not the natural tint of his skin, for his wrists are fair. He has undergone hardship and sickness, as his haggard face says clearly. His left arm has been injured. He holds it in a stiff and unnatural manner. Where in the tropics could an English army doctor have seen such hardship and get his arm wounded? Clearly in Afghanistan.'

*-Sherlock Holmes*

16. America's farm policy desperately needs revamping. Seventy-three cents of every farm program dollar ends up in the pockets of the nation's superfarmers. As a result, the mid-sized family farms are being squeezed out of existence. Also, our farm policy courts environmental disaster. Federal subsidies encourage farmers to use enormous amounts of fertilizer and pesticides. These chemicals percolate down through the soil and pollute limited groundwater.

*-Osha Gray Davidson*

17. By any standard one wants to set, Americans are not learning science. All too often what is taught is better not taught at all. All too often the mind-set against science and the fear of mathematics are solidly installed in grade school. All too often science can be skipped in high school and in most colleges. As for most American college students, the science requirement is a sad joke.

*-Leon Lederman*

18. The idea of a free press in America today is a joke. A small group of people, the nation's advertisers, control the media more effectively than if they owned it outright. Through fear of an advertising boycott, they can dictate everything from programming to news report content. Politicians as well as editors shiver in their boots at the thought of such a boycott. This situation is intolerable and ought to be changed. I suggest we all listen to National Public Radio and public television.

19. The Catholic Church needs to change its tune. There have been many documented cases of priests who are abusing their privilege and power to take sexual advantage of women. When such cases come out (and many don't), the powers that be will first deny what happened, then blame the woman, and finally relocate the priest to another parish without that parish being notified of the priest's transgression. This would be less likely to happen if there are important female figures and role-models to look up to, but current Catholic dogma states that females cannot be ordained as priests; dogma that was in 1995 declared to be 'infallible' by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, even though women have held the title of deacon, priest, and even bishop until at least the eighth century after Christ. Similar hypocrisy is exhibited by the mandate of clerical celibacy, where any debate to loosen this restriction is out of the question, and yet this mandate was not put in place by the Church until the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, this mandate is once again hurting women. An anonymous survey of some 44,000 priests found that almost half does admit to be sexually active, and in their forced outward denial of any such activity must have left a long trail of wounded women and fatherless progeny. Of course, the Church holds power over women in various other respects as well: think of the sexual repression that results from not being allowed to have pre-marital sex or protected sex, or the trauma that frequently results from the Church's extreme stance on abortion. Also, a gut-wrenching marriage annulment process keeps many Catholic women in unhealthy relationships, which usually causes more pain and suffering to the wife than to the husband. And finally, the Catholic Church's lectionary, the collection of biblical passages authorized by the Church hierarchy to be read at Mass, invariably leaves out women's experiences and accomplishments. To give just one example, in the reading of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday Mass we will hear of the rush of two male disciples to the tomb of Jesus (who never even get to see Jesus), but gone is the subsequent encounter of Mary with Jesus. In sum, over the centuries, the Catholic Church has turned the important lessons from the Bible into patriarchal dogma that has systematically served to oppress women. This not only hurts women, but also hides the true teachings of the Bible.

-adapted from Angela Bonavoglia in  
"Good Catholic Girls: How Women are Leading the Fight to Change the Church"