



University Seminar: Psychology Edition

Chapters 7 & 8
Critical Thinking and Communicating
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Agenda/Overview

- Brainstorming
- Logical Argument and Fallacies
- Communication
 - Listening
 - Expressing
 - Writing



Brainstorming

- Generate maximum # of ideas
- No filtering
- Record all
- Relax
- Goal = some # of solutions
- Crazy is OK

● ● ● | **Logical Argument (and errors)**

- **Deductive Argument**
 - Arguments that claim to follow truth-preserving rules
 - Truth-preserving rule: if the first two statements (premises) are true, the conclusion will be true
 - Example of a truth-preserving rule:
 - If A, then B.
 - A.
 - Therefore, B.

● ● ● | **Inductive Arguments**

- More common type of argument
- Supporting statements, or evidence, aim to show that it is reasonable to accept that the conclusion is true
- Weight of the evidence
- Argue from individual examples to a general claim or generalization

● ● ● | **Fallacies of reasoning**

- Hasty generalization
- Attack the person
- Appeal to authority
- Point to a false cause
- All or nothing thinking
- Basing arguments on emotion

[Ricks Interview](#)



Assumptions

- Often implied, unstated
- Should critically examine
 - Must spell out first, make explicit
- Example of social issue?



Communicating

- Vitaly important skills
- Listening
 - What do we usually do when listening?
 - Important to “check out” perceptions.
 - Eye contact
 - Don't interrupt
 - Acknowledge
 - Look for requests and issues



Communicating (cont.)

- Sending
 - Clearly convey intended message
 - Accusatory messages
- Receiving and sending and relationships – how important?



Predicting Success (and Failure) of Marriages & Relationships

- John Gottman – University of Seattle, “Love Lab”
 - Couples stay in lab for weekend
 - Observed intensely
 - Able to predict divorce/ no divorce with 90% accuracy
- Events of first five minutes of an argument vital
- Several signs that are predictive of divorce/relationship failure



Predictors of divorce/ relationship failure

- Harsh startup
- The four horsemen
 - Flooding
 - Body language
 - Failed repair attempts
 - Bad memories
- Predictors of success



Writing

- Schedule adequate time
- Work in stages
 - Brainstorming
 - Refining
 - Initial research
 - First draft
 - Rewrite/edit/proofread
 - Active voice
