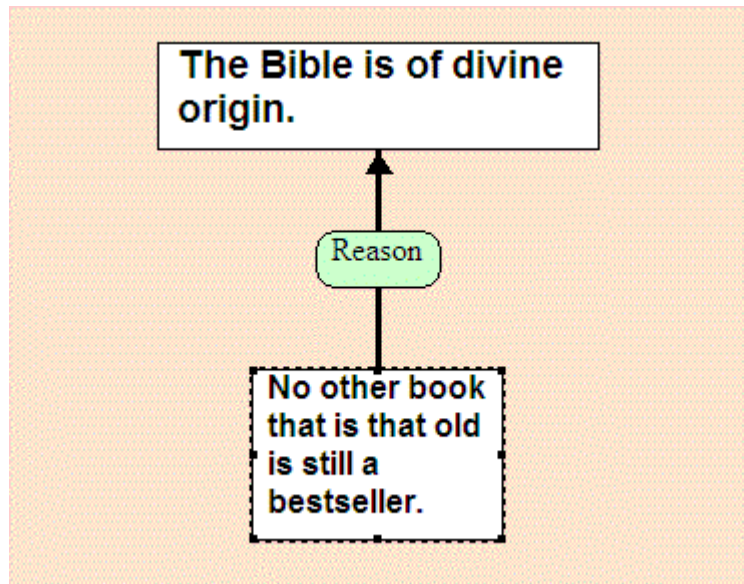
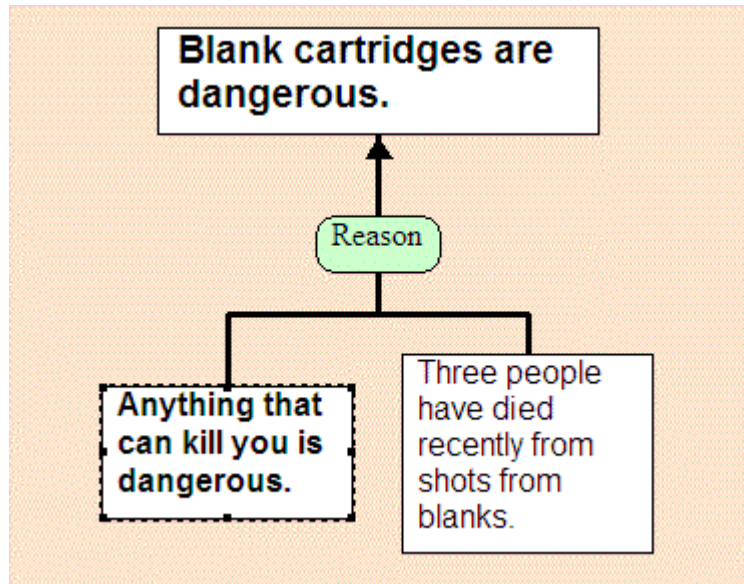


"I never had any doubt about it [The Bible] being of divine origin. And to those who... doubt it, I would like to have them point out to me any similar collection of writings that have lasted for as many thousands of years and is still the best seller worldwide. It had to be of divine origin." From: Ronald Regan.

**Explanation:** The logical conclusion is that any book that is older and a bestseller could also be divinely inspired. If you are not willing to admit that, you should not argue the first.

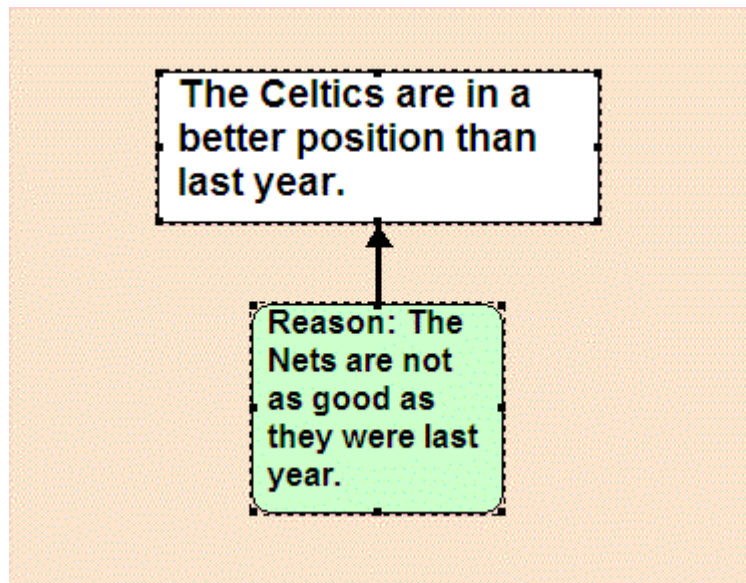


Three people have died in Germany after being "shot" by starting pistols that fired blank cartridges. In each case, the pistol was placed against the neck and the pressure from the resulting discharge ruptured major blood vessels. "These cases impressively demonstrate the error of the belief that blank cartridges are harmless", says a report cited in Australian Doctor. From: "The Bulletin" magazine, August 3, 1999.



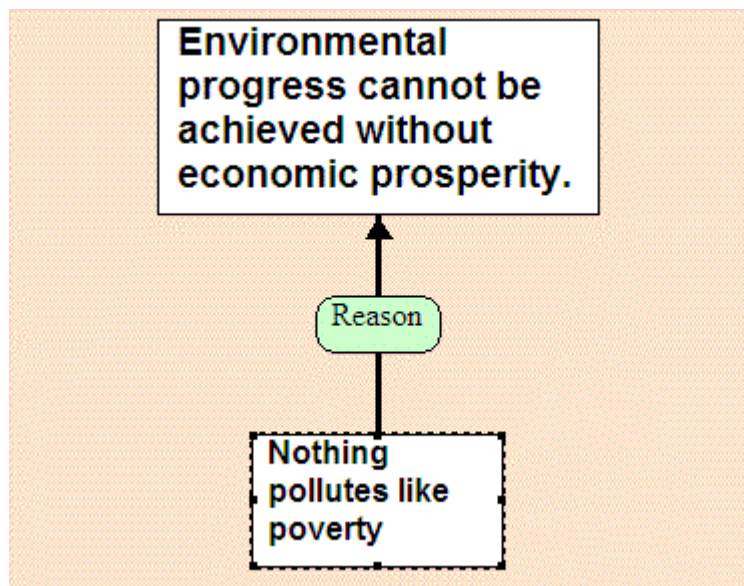
“With Rivers as the new dominant face of management, the Celtics are in a better position than when Ainge and a reluctant Jim O’Brien tried their oil and water routine last year. The key will be whether Rivers’ coaching can back up his smooth words. In a realigned Eastern Conference with the Nets losing more than they gained over this summer, there is a chance for the Celtics to regain some successful footing.” From Lindy’s “Pro Basketball” 2004-2005.

**Explanation:** The logical corollary is that if the Nets are not as good, you have a better chance. No consideration is given to whether the Celtics have gotten better, or if anyone else has.



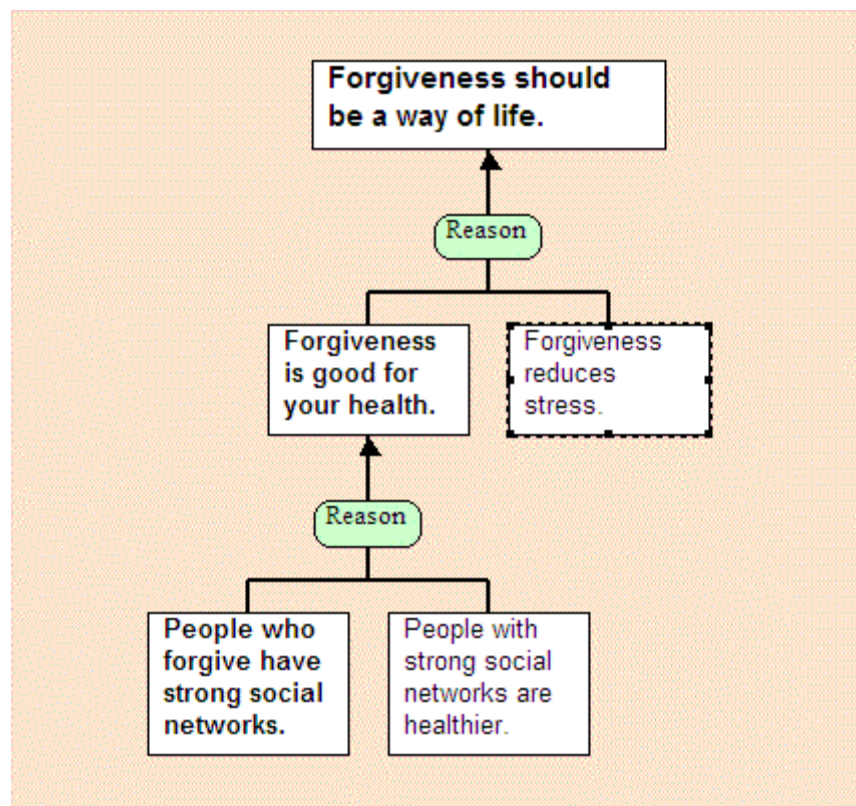
"The philosophical basis of the Bush administration's approach to the twin issues of protecting nature and moving toward energy independence is that environmental progress cannot be achieved without economic prosperity. 'We have made a national commitment to environmental improvement,' says EPA's Michael Leavitt. But, as Mr. Leavitt... also says: 'Nothing promotes pollution like poverty.'" From: "The Christian Science Monitor," Tuesday, September 28, 2004, p. 4.

**Explanation:** Does the statement "economic prosperity leads to environmental progress" follow from the statement: "Nothing promotes pollution like poverty"? Answer: No. The fact that poverty pollutes does not imply that prosperity cleans. Why not? Because prosperity may pollute as well. The argument is unsound because one does not follow from the other. The premise, as well, is unsustainable because there is no evidence and no necessary truth to the statement, "Nothing promotes pollution like poverty."



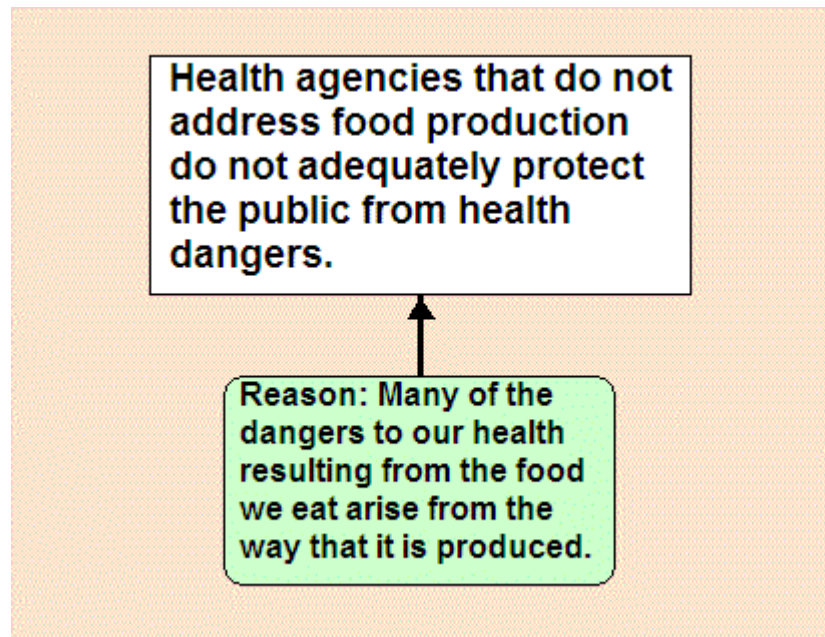
“Research suggests that forgiveness works in at least two ways. One is by reducing the stress of the state of unforgiveness.... The other benefit of forgiveness... relates to research showing that people with strong social networks... tend to be healthier.... Someone who nurses grudges and keeps track of every slight is obviously going to shed some relationships over the course of a lifetime. Forgiveness, says Charlotte van Oyen Witvliet... should be incorporated into one’s personality, a way of life, not merely a response to specific insults.” From: “Newsweek,” September 27, 2004, p. 52 by Jordanna Lewis and Jerry Adler.

**Explanation:** This is a clear argument. What is unclear is which statements are reasons and which are premises. This map could be made several different ways.



"The traditional British approach to food safety has been one where local health officials only intervene at the level of food retailing, for instance inspecting premises where food is prepared or sold. However, a much broader approach to the question is needed. Many of the dangers to our health resulting from the food we eat arise from the way it is produced in the first place, that is the modern intensive farming practices involved, rather than small-scale organic farming. A national food safety agency that fails to address the question of food production will therefore be unlikely to protect us effectively from damaging our health through the food we eat." From Critical Thinking by Alec Fisher, Cambridge, 2001, p. 171.

**Explanation:** This is an example of begging the question. The author concludes that an agency that does not monitor food production does not properly protect the public from health risks; he supports this with the single statement that many of the health problems that arise from food come "from the way that it is produced."



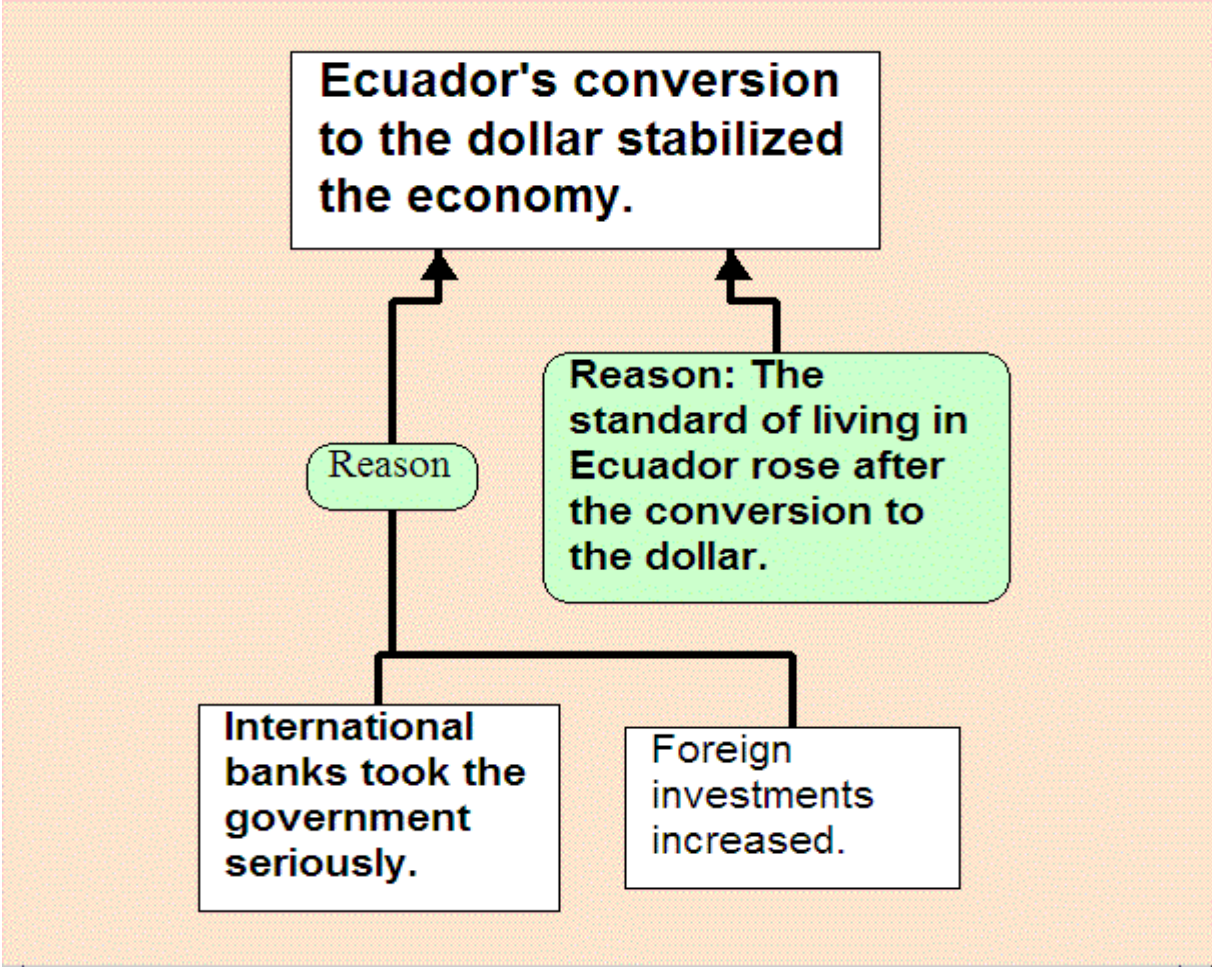
“Free trade will be good for this country. The reason is patently clear. Isn’t it obvious that unrestricted commercial relations will bestow on all sections of this nation the benefits which result when there is an unimpeded flow of goods between countries?” From: With Good Reason by S. Morris Engel.

**Explanation:** This passage could be assessed as containing a logical fallacy known as “begging the question,” in which the premise that supposedly supports the conclusion does nothing more than reiterate the conclusion. The argument map below should make this clear.



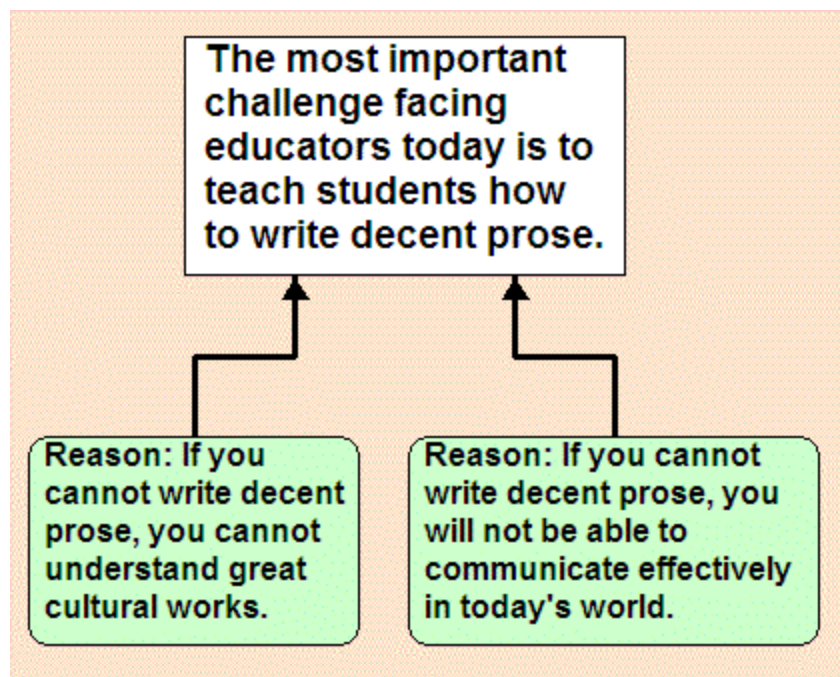
Once in a great while, something of such magnitude happens that you know immediately that history is being made. Just such a thing happened in Ecuador in the year 2000. That is the year that Ecuador converted its currency to the dollar. After Ecuador converted to the dollar, the country's economy stabilized almost immediately. Suddenly, international banks took Ecuador's government seriously. Investments started to flow from international sources. And the standard of living rose in following months.

**Explanation:** Not all arguments are presented as conclusions with sustaining reasons, which are in turn supported by premises. This one offers a conclusion and three pieces of evidence to support the conclusion. Another way to present this argument is: There are two reasons to believe that Ecuador's economy was stabilized by its conversion to the dollar. The first is increased international banking recognition of Ecuador's government, as evidenced by increased foreign investment. The second is an increased quality of living among Ecuador's citizens.



"The most important challenge facing educators today is to teach students how to write decent prose. By "decent prose" I do not mean elegant writing: I mean simple straightforward writing that conforms to the rules of English grammar and clearly conveys its meaning. The ability to write decent prose important because those who lack it will be unable to understand the great achievements of our cultural heritage—whether Homer or Hemingway—and, perhaps even more important, will be unable to communicate effectively in today's world." From Critical Thinking by William Hughes, p. 90.

**Explanation:** This argument is not particularly strong. However, it appears convincing at first glance because it is written in an authoritative tone, and because the prose good. See if students raise the objection that the author says that it is important to write well so that one can read well.



“Despite all this, Yushchenko continues to hold a single-digit lead in the polls. That’s because the former banker and prime minister is responsible for many of the free-market reforms that have allowed the Ukrainian economy to flourish, and because he promises that he will continue to lead an independent and democratic country toward partnership with the West. The Bush administration and other Western governments hope for his success but privately expect that Yanukovich will win or steal the election in a mid-November runoff. Putin, they know, will aid and abet that fraud—and then set about integrating Ukraine into his authoritarian bloc. No one has challenged the Russian president on his aggressive imperialism—which probably means that it will grow.” From: “The Christian Science Monitor,” October 28, 2004, p. 9.

**Explanation:** This is an interesting example of an explanation that is not an argument. The statement that Yushchenko is currently winning at the polls is a statement of fact that can be verified through research—even if that research is only a sample poll. The author offers two explanations for this, but the explanations do not contribute to the truth of the statement: they merely explain it. This is a good exercise to introduce the concept of an “explanation” and demonstrate how and why an explanation is not the same as an argument. The argument map that follows demonstrates that the “reasons” do not directly support the conclusion.

