

TOPICS, I.1 (P. 31)

• **Deduction/Deductive Reasoning:** An intellectual act by which something is shown to be the case, based on other things that are previously assumed.

A proposition (conclusion) is shown to follow necessarily based on other propositions (premises).

• **Demonstration/Demonstrative Reasoning:** A deduction in which the premises are true and primary, or based on conclusions drawn from true or primary premises.

• **Dialectics/Dialectical Reasoning:** A deduction in which the premises are commonly held beliefs

TOPICS, I.5 (PP. 33–35)

• **Definition:** An account/phrase/utterance that indicates the *essence* of something.

• **Distinctive Property:** Something predicated of another that does not indicate the essence of something, but can belong only to that kind of subject.

• **Genus:** That which is predicated essentially of several/many things that themselves are different in species.

• **Accident/Coincident:** Something predicated of another, that is neither a definition, property, nor genus.

SYLLOGISMS

Syllogism: a verbal expression (usually in written form, but also spoken) of the intellectual act of deduction—i.e., drawing conclusions from premises.

S = Subject

P = Predicate

M = Middle Term

Premise

Premise

∴ Conclusion

All M is P

All S is M

∴ All S is P

No P is M

All S is M

∴ No S is P

All M is P

Some S is M

∴ Some S is P

These examples of syllogisms will always be *valid*. A syllogism is **valid** when the conclusion can necessarily be drawn from the information contained in the premises. An argument is **sound**, when the syllogism is valid and the premises are also true. An argument may still be valid even if the premises are not true—but it will not be sound. Perhaps, on your own time, you can experiment with the above examples, supplying your own terms for S, P, and M, in order to test whether the arguments are always valid.