

Recognizing Types of Reasoning & Their Elements

- Comparison
- Cause & Effect
- Generalization

Comparison Reasoning

Drawing a conclusion based on how one idea or event is like another

- Key Words:
 - *Like, Unlike, Similar, Different, Same, Contrast, Better, Worse, More, Less*
- Elements:
 - Subjects—what is being compared
 - Issue—point of comparison
 - Descriptor—how the subject is described regarding a given issue

Comparison Reasoning (cont.)

- Ex. Juniors are much more respectful, hard-working & responsible than Seniors.
 - **Key Word(s):** More
 - **Subjects:** Juniors, Seniors
 - **Issues:** Respectfulness, Work ethic, Responsibility
 - **Descriptors:** Much more

Cause & Effect Reasoning: Analyzing Why Events Happened

- Key Words:
 - *Caused, Led to, Forced, Because, Resulted in, Reason for*
- Elements:
 - Causes
 - Effects
 - Connector—explanation of relationship between cause & effect

Cause & Effect Reasoning (cont.)

- Ex. Seniors are disrespectful, lazy and irresponsible because they feel they are no longer connected to the high school community.
 - **Key Word(s):** Because
 - **Cause(s):** Disconnectedness from HS community
 - **Effect(s):** Disrespectful, lazy, irresponsible
 - **Connectors:**

Generalization Reasoning

Drawing conclusions about a whole based on a portion (sample) of the whole

- Key Words:
 - *All, None, Many, Most, Majority, Few, In general...*
- Elements:
 - Whole—what is being generalized
 - Part—important subsections of the whole
 - Sample—specifics from which the generalization is drawn

Generalization Reasoning (cont.)

- Ex. Mrs. Galante concluded that most BHS teachers are hard-working because Ms. Heldman, Mr. Sheinfeld & Mr. Boschetto come early and stay late.
 - **Key Word(s):** Most
 - **Whole:** BHS teachers
 - **Parts:** Eng teachers, Math teachers, SS teachers etc
 - **Sample:** Heldman, Sheinfeld, Boschetto

Recognition & Labeling Practice #1

1. All generalizations are flawed

- Type of Reasoning:
- Key Words
- Elements

Recognition & Labeling Practice #2

2. America's war in Iraq increasingly looks like a quagmire a la Vietnam.

- Type of Reasoning:

- Key Words

- Elements

Recognition & Labeling Practice #3

3. As for the Bushes: like father, like son

- Type of Reasoning:

- Key Words

- Elements

Recognition & Labeling Practice #4

4. As shown by the 2000 Presidential election results, a majority of Americans did not want George W. Bush to become President.

- Type of Reasoning:
- Key Words
- Elements

Recognition & Labeling Practice #5

5. Communism is clearly a dead end as none of the world's communist countries have been able to match the standard of living available in liberal democratic capitalist countries.

– Type of Reasoning:

– Key Words

– Elements